

Soviet plane hijacker tried in China

HARBIN, China (R) — A young Soviet pilot charged with hijacking an Aeroflot passenger plane to China was tried before a court here Tuesday but the verdict was not immediately disclosed. Informal sources said the one-day trial of Shamir Gadij Ogly Alimuradov, aged about 25, was over but neither Soviet consular officials nor the Chinese Foreign Ministry would comment on the outcome. Alimuradov, co-pilot of the Antonov-24 aircraft hijacked on a domestic flight from Chita in Siberia on Dec. 19, was expected to receive a heavy prison sentence. Soviet sources speculated he would eventually be sent back to the Soviet Union. China has ignored a Soviet request for his extradition. Peking said on Feb. 21 that Alimuradov had already been found guilty of unlawfully seizing a civilian aircraft after an official Chinese investigation and would be tried in this country under Chinese law and international conventions.

Jordan Times

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جورنال تائمز يورديينيه تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي.

Egypt-Israel talks resume in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian and Israeli negotiators resumed talks Tuesday on a festering border dispute and ways of improving bilateral relations. It was the third round of talks since Israel accepted on Jan. 13 an Egyptian demand that the dispute over Taba, a one-square-kilometre beach strip on the Gulf of Aqaba, be settled by international arbitration. The resumed talks coincided with a further sign of a thaw in relations badly strained by the border issue and Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson conferred on Tuesday with Economy Minister Sultan Abu Ali to discuss bilateral economic ties in the first meeting of its kind since the Lebanon invasion. Sasson described the meeting as "very fruitful" but gave no details. The negotiators are discussing terms and procedures of arbitration and normalisation of relations in the fields of trade, tourism, culture and political dialogue. Israel has insisted on parallel talks on the two issues.

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New ministerial committee formed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Financial, Economic and Planning Committee held a meeting on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and decided to form a ministerial committee authorised to identify urban districts in order to distribute the agricultural lands to those who deserve it. The new ministerial committee is headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al-Majali and includes Minister of Interior Hassan Al-Kayed, Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakkhan, the director of the Lands Department, the director of the National Geographic Center and the commander of the Redia police.

S. Arabia makes aid payment to Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Saudi Arabia has given Jordan \$119.7 million as the first of three scheduled aid payments this year, Finance Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul-Majid Qasem said Tuesday. Seven oil-producing Arab states pledged aid to confront Israel to Jordan, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation at a 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad. Jordan's share was \$125 billion a year. Because of declining oil revenues only Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been meeting the commitment, although Kuwait has reduced its contribution by 39 per cent.

New airport to open in N. Cyprus on Friday

NICOSIA (R) — A controversial new airport in Turkish Cypriot northern Cyprus will open on Friday, the breakaway territory's prime minister said Tuesday. Dervis Eroglu, reacting to Greek Cypriot claims that Geciklik airport may be used by the United States. Rapid Deployment Force, said in a statement: "The airport was not built for military purposes but to serve the country's economy, tourism and transport." Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash has said, however, that it could be used by the Turkish armed forces.

Evren, Kasm hold talks

ANKARA (R) — Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al-Kasm had talks on Tuesday with Turkish President Kenan Evren while officials of the two sides discussed outstanding issues. Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal assured Dr. Kasm on Monday that Ankara would not cut the flow of the Euphrates and the Syrian premier told Ozal that Syria was "open to all types of cooperation concerning border security."

Yaqub Khan denies resignation rumours

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said reports that he will resign are false and unfounded and that he has no intention of stepping down, according to press reports on Tuesday. "The news is a mere fabrication and only the imagination of the author's mind," the minister was quoted as saying by the Pakistan Times. Several other papers reported Mr. Yaqub Khan had denied he would resign.

King: Israeli designs go beyond occupation, could threaten Jordan

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday warned that Israel's expansionist designs go beyond the occupied territories and could ultimately threaten Jordan's national security.

"The expansionist policy against our brothers in the occupied territories is targeted at the heart of the Arab Nation," the King said, addressing a large gathering representing Jerusalem. "The Jordanian-Palestinian march and joint efforts to counter the Israeli drive had achieved great success on the international level by reaching new dimensions," the King told the gathering at the Royal Court. The gathering voiced in support for the King's recent decision to terminate political coordination with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and urged him to pursue efforts to liberate the occupied territories. The King said neither Jordan nor the PLO could have separately achieved the progress they managed to secure for the joint initiative in the last 12 months after signing of the Feb. 11 accord.

Palme's killer was professional and had accomplice, police say

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — The man who shot dead Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme had at least one accomplice who helped him escape in a car, police said on Tuesday. Stockholm police chief Hans Holmer told a news conference: "This murder was carried out by a professional killer. We still do not know who was behind it. We are looking for more than one person."

Mr. Palme was shot dead in central Stockholm on Friday after leaving a cinema with his wife Lisbeth.

"The weapon used to gun down Palme in central Stockholm on Friday night, the fact that he was shot from behind and the careful planning of the murder point to the work of a professional."

"A policeman chasing the assassin on foot almost caught him as he got into a car which roared off at high speed," Mr. Holmer told the news conference which was called to answer charges that the police had bungled the investigation.

He said a taxi driver who was nearby saw the killer jump in to a car and it sped off. It was at this point that the policeman who had been chasing the murderer arrived at the scene.

Arms talks recess with first signs of progress

GENEVA (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union on Tuesday ended a seven-week round of talks on controlling nuclear and space weapons, marked by the first signs of some progress since the negotiations opened a year ago.

"We introduced a lot of proposals here. We hope maybe next time there will be more progress than this time," Soviet chief negotiator Viktor Karpov said.

The teams negotiating separately on long-range nuclear missiles, medium-range missiles and space weapons held a final plenary session at the U.S. arms control agency. The fifth round will start on May 8.

Mr. Karpov again put the onus for progress on the Americans, saying: "We introduced a proposal that can be agreed right away so it depends upon the United States to agree on that and rid Europe of Soviet and American missiles right now."

favours from 1967 to 1974 to liberate the occupied Arab territories were jeopardised by "extremists on both sides arguing that Jordan used to occupy the land."

After the 1974 Rabat Arab summit until the signing of the Feb. 11 accord, the King said, "the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, did what it could, with our support, to restore the occupied land and to save the Arab population."

After 19 years of occupation, very much was accomplished in the one-year after the Feb. 11 accord, he said. "We nearly reached a stage where we could convene an international peace conference and to interpret the 1982 Fez summit resolutions into reality," the King said.

The international conference was to be called for by the U.N. secretary general and to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO. But the effort collapsed when the PLO went back on its agreement to accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

(Continued on page 3)

political leader since King Gustav III in 1792. Two newspapers said the police took too long to arrive and failed to cut off possible escape routes.

Mr. Holmer said the first police cars were on the scene within about three minutes after a passing taxi driver raised the alarm and several officers gave chase in the direction in which witnesses said the killer fled.

"The fact that we came so close to catching him shows quite clearly that the police arrived as fast as could reasonably be expected," he added.

Mr. Holmer said the police might be open to criticism but their priority was to catch the killer.

He said it was not known whether the killer was still in Sweden or had fled abroad. Police in Western Europe and the United States were helping in the hunt, he added.

Western diplomats said the assassination looked increasingly like the work of a small extremist organisation and the main international guerrilla groups appeared not to have been involved.

Mr. Palme was proud of saying he was safe in Sweden. He and his wife were walking unescorted when he was shot.

Papal envoy says only miracle can save Lebanon

ZGHORTA, Lebanon (R) — Pope John Paul's representative in Lebanon said on Tuesday the war-torn country needed a miracle to end almost 11 years of civil strife.

Papal Nuncio Luciano Angeloni, visiting former President Suleiman Franjeh at his home town in north Lebanon, told reporters the Pope had "a great interest in seeing an end to the Lebanese problem."

The Vatican was working towards this, but "in addition... we need a miracle to achieve a solution," Mr. Angeloni said.

He and papal envoy Monsignor Luigi Giatti talked to Mr. Franjeh, a pro-Syrian Maronite Christian, as part of their preparations for a visit to Lebanon by the Pope's Foreign Secretary Achille Silvestrini.

Mr. Franjeh said he told his guests that the Vatican could help Lebanon by putting pressure on America to stop its "designs" on Lebanon and on Israel to withdraw its troops.

Mr. Angeloni and Mr. Giatti are seeking ways to revive the peace talks stalled since a pact signed by three militias collapsed in mid-



NAMING CEREMONY: Islamic Chief Sheikh Mohammad Mhellan on Tuesday conducts the naming ceremony of the newly-born daughter of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. Her Highness Princess Raiyah. The ceremony was attended by the King, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, members of the royal family, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid and senior officials (Petra photo)

Israeli troops open fire in Nablus, wound Palestinian

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers opened fire on Palestinians in the marketplace of Nablus on Tuesday wounding one in spreading violence following the assassination on Sunday of Nablus Mayor Zafar Al Masri.

In occupied Gaza, Palestinians threw a smoke grenade at an army jeep patrolling the marketplace, causing no casualties. Soldiers immediately erected roadblocks around the city, sources quoted by AP said.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in a speech to army officers that he would pursue plans to ease Israeli control over West Bank cities, despite growing opposition to those plans.

"We must not despair of our proposal for devolution of authority in Judea and Samaria," Peres said, using the Israeli names for the West Bank.

"We do not want to run the Arabs' lives. They are trying to describe us as conquerors. This is not true and we have no interest in being so," Peres was quoted by aides as saying.

Peres said Israel would "continue an initiative for direct dialogue with Jordanians and Palestinians."

But three Palestinians have withdrawn candidacy for other mayoral posts, following the Masri assassination, reports said.

All West Bank towns had Palestinian mayors until most were deposed in 1982 by the former right-wing Likud government.

Two extremist Palestinian guerrilla groups said they killed Mr. Masri for "collaborating" with Israel by taking the Nablus job.

At the time of his appointment, Mr. Masri told reporters his willingness to take up the job was not politically motivated. His emotional burial was attended by 50,000 people, some waving banned Palestinian flags and shouting slogans.

Israeli troops opened fire Tuesday on Palestinians refused to stop for "questioning" in Nablus, wounding a 22-year-old man, military sources told AP. Initial reports said the youth was shot for throwing stones. A curfew imposed on the town continued Tuesday.

On Monday soldiers shot dead a Palestinian man and wounded his son when soldiers opened fire to disperse demonstrators near the city.

Israel Radio said the 7.65-mm pistol used to kill Mr. Masri was the same used in the shooting deaths of an Israeli policeman in January and an Israeli merchant last August. Both the previous killings also were in Nablus.

A curfew continued at Balata refugee camp on the southern outskirts of Nablus as the 57-year-old Palestinian shot dead on Monday was buried.

Peres' senior advisers are working on a plan to grant a measure of "local self-government" to the Gaza Strip, Haaretz daily reported on Tuesday.

Botha announces end to emergency

CAPE TOWN (AP) — President P.W. Botha announced on Tuesday that the state of emergency imposed to curb anti-apartheid violence in South Africa would be lifted, probably on Friday.

In a brief and unexpected statement to a packed parliament in the country's legislative capital, Mr. Botha claimed the turmoil had subsided to "sporadic and isolated incidents."

He said the situation had "improved sufficiently to enable me to announce that a proclamation will be issued in the near future, most probably this coming Friday, which will lift the state of emergency in those magisterial districts where it still applies."

However, even without a state of emergency South African security forces have wide-ranging powers to use force and detain without charge, and Mr. Botha said parliament would be asked to review the laws and provide "statutory powers required to protect lives and properties."

The emergency was imposed July 21 in 30 urban and rural districts and remains in force in 23. Its removal has been a primary demand of anti-apartheid campaigners and Western governments.

Mr. Botha also announced an Aug. 1 deadline for granting independence to South African-ruled Namibia (South-West Africa) but reaffirmed South Africa's condition, broadly backed by Washington, that Cuban troops withdraw from neighbouring Angola.

Angola, where Namibian independence fighters are based, has refused to link a settlement to the Cuban presence.

Bomb explodes at Johannesburg police HQ, page 8

Iraq reports raid on Iranian army camp

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denied a Tehran charge that its warplanes bombed civilian areas in Iran on Tuesday, and said Iraqi Kurds were joining regular forces battling Iranian troops on the northern Gulf war front.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military spokesman as saying Iraqi jets attacked a military camp at Shudegan, 60 kilometres northeast of the southern Iranian town of Ahadad.

He said the camp housed troop concentrations, fuel storage tanks for the Iranian army and military supply warehouses.

Baghdad press reports meanwhile said Iraqi Kurds were joining government forces battling Iranian troops who launched an offensive into Iraqi Kurdistan eight days ago.

Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, met Kurdish fighters on Tuesday in the provincial capital of Sulaymaniyeh.

AP adds from Abu Dhabi: Claude Cheysson, the European Community (EC) commissioner affirmed here on Tuesday that some European countries, including France, were supplying Iraq with arms "because Iraq has responded to all peace moves." He did not name the other countries.

Addressing a press conference on the second day of a visit to Abu Dhabi, Mr. Cheysson hinted at possible European military intervention in the Gulf in case of a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

Asked how European countries would react to the closure of the strait, Mr. Cheysson said: "I understand there is a warship in your harbour just now. The warship did not come here on a pleasure cruise."

Mr. Cheysson was referring to "De Grasse," the French frigate which arrived in Abu Dhabi.

GCC condemns Iranian presence at Fao, urges Tehran to withdraw

RIYADH (Agencies) — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Tuesday condemned Iran's military presence in southern Iraq's Fao Peninsula as a threat to Arab Gulf states and called on Tehran to withdraw its forces.

"The Iranian presence in Fao... is a direct threat to member states of the GCC," Omani Minister of State Yusuf Ibn Alawi told a news conference.

He spoke following a three-day meeting of foreign ministers of the GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

"Until it changes its statements and actions, we have the right to look with suspicion at Iran's stand towards Gulf countries," said Mr. Ibn Alawi.

He offered thinly-veiled criticism of Libya and Syria, which have supported Iran in the 5½-year-old war.

"The Gulf (Arab countries) have been an asset and a backer to (other) Arab countries for 30 years. In return, they should stand at our side," he said.

"The war should be looked at as an integral subject. Anything could be discussed if Iran accepts negotiations and peaceful co-existence," Mr. Ibn Alawi said.

Iran has demanded at least \$200 billion in "damages."

In a formal statement after Monday night's final session of their conference, the ministers condemned Iran's occupation of Iraqi territory and urged Tehran to respond to peace moves.

A Kuwaiti Defence Ministry spokesman said GCC chiefs of staff would meet in Riyadh on Wednesday and Gulf Arab sources told Reuters they were expected to review the military situation following the new Iranian offensive into Iraqi territory.


GCC member states have a "Peninsula Shield" joint strike force of two brigades stationed at a desert base in northeast Saudi Arabia, formed in 1984 to repel attack on any GCC country.

In its statement issued Monday night, the GCC said: "The GCC condemns the occupation of a part of Iraqi territory and calls on Iran to immediately withdraw its forces in the international border."

The statement also called on Iran to stop threats against the Gulf states "which threaten the security and stability of the region," and asked it to respond to initiatives for a peaceful settlement.

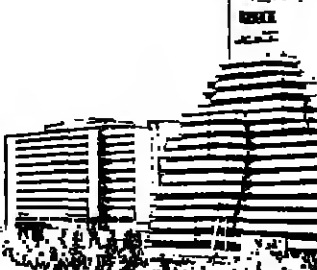
The GCC states, neighbouring the two warring countries, also called on the permanent members of

(Continued on page 3)



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Minister blames extremists for Cairo security police riots

CAIRO (Agencies) — Extremists may have triggered last week's Cairo riots after infiltrating the security forces in a plot to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's interior minister says.

In an interview published Tuesday by the government-owned daily Al-Ahram, Interior Minister Zaki Badr said Mr. Mubarak had raised the possibility of infiltration by Islamic and other opposition groups during his meetings with security chiefs following last week's shakeup in wake of the riots, sparked by a mutiny in the security forces.

Gen. Badr said the possibility of opposition infiltration was under investigation but the government had drawn no final conclusions.

The minister also revealed that 17,000 members of the Central Security Force (CSF) took part in the Feb. 25 mutiny, which triggered a day and night of rioting that prompted the government to call out the army and place the capital under curfew.

Western diplomats had previously estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 conscripts of the 282,000-member CSF had joined the mutiny. Clashes were also reported near the cities of Assiut, Sohag and Ismailia and in rural garrisons around the capital.

The curfew in Cairo was suspended Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., the longest period of relaxation since it was imposed six days ago. Prime Minister Ali Lutfi said the curfew would remain in force during nighttime hours until the end of the week.

At least 37 people were killed in the rioting and 321 injured. Last Thursday the government reported 30 deaths, but since then a charred body which may be that of an elderly Danish woman has been found in the ruins of one of the hotels.

Al-Ahram said Gen. Badr and his deputies had acknowledged that opposition groups had sought to infiltrate the security services. The newspaper said authorities had found a diary of Lt.-Col. Abboud Al-Zomor, a member of the extremist Jihad group, in

which he blamed the group's inability to overthrow the government on its failure to infiltrate the security services and army.

Al-Zomor is serving a 25-year prison term for his role in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat and the riots which broke out in Assiut shortly after the murder.

During the interview, Gen. Badr was asked whether in light of evidence of attempted infiltration, there had been negligence by the Interior Ministry in protecting the force.

"I believe there must have been a certain amount of negligence," Gen. Badr said. "And this question specifically is foremost among the points that the president stressed at his meeting with leaders of the Interior Ministry to find out the truth."

The new minister, sworn in last Friday after the resignation of his predecessor Ahmad Rushdy, said it was hard to believe the rioting erupted spontaneously without some degree of organisation.

"It is hard to believe that it happened accidentally or by mere hearsay, especially if we noted that the conscripts took to the streets and attacked tourists' hotels and other targets at a significant timing," he said. Gen. Badr said the trouble erupted before 8 p.m. when security troops normally prepare for bed.

Gen. Badr said the preliminary investigation also revealed problems in the relationship between career officers and conscript enlisted men and conditions under which security troops live.

He said rioters may have burned hotels in a plot to undermine Egypt's tourism industry, a major source of foreign currency, or because the luxurious accommodations contrasted so sharply with the miserable living conditions in security garrisons located near the hotels.

Gen. Badr said Mr. Mubarak had asked the Interior Ministry, which supervises the security force, to consider relocating camps away from heavily populated areas.

"The only consolation was that the overwhelming majority of the forces remained loyal and refused to take part in the mutiny," Gen. Badr said.

The Egyptian government first blamed the mutiny on a rumour that tours of enlistment for conscripts were being extended involuntarily by one year.

Gen. Badr confirmed that a 1980 law allows the government to extend tours of duty for conscripts who have been guilty of desertion or misbehaviour. He said the mutiny apparently spread because security troops thought the regulation would be applied to all of them.

An opposition weekly, meanwhile, reported Tuesday that the death toll from the day and night of rioting had been much higher than the official figure.

Al-Shaab, published by the Socialist Labour Party, said an army medical team found that about 150 people had been killed and more than 500 injured. There was no confirmation from the military, and the paper did not say how it gained access to the findings.

Curfew to be lifted

A night curfew imposed on the Egyptian capital after last week's police riots will be lifted by the end of the week, an apparent sign of the government's confidence that the disturbances will not recur.

Troops moved in to quell the mutiny by thousands of security police will be withdrawn from the streets of Cairo with the lifting of the curfew, Prime Minister Ali Lutfi said in an interview reported by the Egyptian Middle East News Agency.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on the city of 14 million people after police conscripts ran riot last Tuesday night.

Gen. Badr said that of 1,200 prisoners who escaped from Torah Prison when riotous pol-

ice stormed the compound and released inmates, 300 were still at large.

An almost eerie calm descends on Cairo at dusk as a curfew imposed after police riots last week begins, welcomed by many residents as a temporary respite from the clamour of one of the world's most congested cities.

Youths play soccer in traffic-free streets with impunity, indicating military authorities are enforcing the ban on night movement in relaxed fashion.

Soldiers and military police manning roadblocks, backed by armour near key buildings, have enforced it politely and no after-curfew incidents have been reported.

"Oh dear, back to late nights, car horns and fumes," sighed one housewife, only half joking, on hearing the news.

To prepare for an army withdrawal, police replaced soldiers at some roadblocks Monday night and motorists reported less meticulous checks on documents.

The calm of Cairo at night, broken only by dogs barking and the occasional car horn as a motorist forgets he is almost alone on the roads, contrasts with the daytime traffic jams.

Impenetrable queues of cars during business hours seemed worse this week, perhaps because Cairenes were trying to carry out normal evening activities in daylight.

In the hour before the curfew starts traffic is in tense. Thousands of motorists failed to get home in time Monday night. "Maaleesh" (never mind) seems to be the official attitude.

Those authorised to be out after curfew, armed with special passes, include journalists, doctors, bakers, soldiers, police and a limited number of airport taxi drivers.

Shops stay open for a while after curfew in some suburbs. Old men sit chatting and smoking outside apartment blocks.

On affluent Zamalek Island, home of rich Egyptians, diplomats and other foreigners, there are no curfew checks.

Sharon: Iraq is main threat to Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Cabinet Minister Ariel Sharon said in an interview published Tuesday that Iraq was Israel's most dangerous enemy, and the Iraqi threat could be removed only by war.

Sharon, a former defence minister, voiced concern to the Maariv daily about Iraq's strength as shown by its endurance in a nearly six-year war with Iran.

Maariv quoted Sharon as saying Iraq was Israel's "worst threat," and adding: "From Iraq's perspective, to move a few divisions toward Israel is only a decision about logistics. From our point of view to remove the Iraqi threat means going to war."

Iraq has sent troops to aid Jordan and Syria in previous wars with Israel. But Israeli analysts believe the Iraqis would not do so as long as the Gulf war continued.

Israeli military experts fear an eventual Iraqi-Syrian alliance against Israel and believe Syria would be more confident to attack Israel with another Arab ally such as Iraq.

Sharon, the mastermind of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion who currently is minister of industry and trade, also said Israel should take "very seriously" a threat voiced by Syrian President Hafez Assad to his parliament Feb. 27 to retake the strategic Golan Heights.

"Twelve million Syrians are capable of regaining the Golan and we have no doubts about that," Mr. Assad said. "If the Israelis are working on having the Golan within their territory, we will work on having the Golan in the heart of Syria and not just along its border."

Sharon was quoted as telling Maariv: "Assad is not an impulsive leader. He doesn't always speak out and when he does he should be taken seriously."

"I always recommend that we take the Arabs seriously... in retrospect they have carried out everything they say," Sharon was quoted as saying. "They don't always stick to a schedule, and they haven't always achieved their goals, but they always have tried."

Garang calls Sudan elections 'illegal'

ABU DHABI, UAE (AP) — John Garang, head of the Central Committee of the People's Liberation Army of Sudan (SPLA), was quoted Tuesday as labelling the proposed elections in Sudan as "illegal."

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Itihad, the rebel leader in south Sudan said "the proposed elections will be held in one part of Sudan and the resulting parliament therefore will not represent all the Sudanese people, which is illegal and illogical."

Members of the transitional government in Khartoum, which seized power last April after the overthrow of Jaafar Numeiri, has been striving for national reconciliation involving the rebel movement in the south.

Col. Garang said recent talks with the Sudanese National Rally (a unification of Sudanese parties) were characterised by "frankness and understanding."

He said an agreement was reached to hold an expanded meeting in Addis Ababa, March 15, between his movement and the Sudanese political parties.

"Peace in Sudan will be achieved when all believe in equity for all citizens," he said.

Meanwhile labour union and political party leaders who sent a team to talk peace with the Sudanese rebel leader repudiated on Tuesday the joint communiqué they had negotiated.

The Sudanese National Alliance for Salvation said the communiqué accepted by its own delegation was unacceptable largely because it did not call for an "unconditional and unlimited ceasefire."

In announcing the communiqué of the present war in southern Sudan, the Egyptians are involved with the project.

The interview was conducted in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, the newspaper said. It accompanied the story with a picture of Col. Garang going through an AI Itihad copy.

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over the Sudan People's Liberation Army's clandestine radio station on Monday, Col. Garang ordered "all SPLA units to be on full alert and to step up military operations everywhere."

"I must underline that there will be no cease-fire of any kind whatsoever," he said. "In the past, whenever we declared a ceasefire, the Transitional Military Council (TMC) interprets it as a sign of weakness."

The council rules Sudan through a mainly civilian government it established after the April 6 coup. The prime minister is Ali Gazuoli Dafaallah, a medical doctor who organised the National Alliance.

Alliance leaders decided at an emergency meeting Monday night to reject the communiqué negotiated through February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Col. Garang's base of operations.

They said the document called for scrapping the code of Islamic-based laws Numeiri imposed in September 1983 and abrogating a Numeiri-negotiated defence agreement with Egypt and a military protocol with Libya signed by the currently ruling council.

The alliance voiced support for the government "in protecting the lives and property of the citizens in the south." It called on both sides to cease firing "as an important step to accelerate the process of dialogue toward finding a peaceful settlement."

In announcing the communiqué

Poll shows Peres' popularity rising

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres is slightly more popular than he was four months ago, while his main political rivals are less popular, according to a poll published Tuesday.

The poll published in the daily Maariv indicated that 56.2 per cent of Israeli voters surveyed think that Peres is the best man for the prime minister's job. In a similar survey last November, 52.3 per cent said they believed he was the best man for the job.

Under the coalition rules Peres is to step down from the premiership in October, after 25 months in office, at the mid-term of the government's four-year mandate. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, will then become premier.

According to the survey conducted by Modin Ezrahi Research Institute, 7.4 per cent of the poll sample believe Shamir would be a better prime minister than Peres, down from 8.8 per cent in November.

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, who has said he plans to compete for the leadership of the Likud Party, won the support of 2.6 per cent of those surveyed who said they would like to see him lead the country, down from 6.2 per cent in November.

A poll conducted in January by Dahaf pollsters indicated that Peres' Labour Party could win enough votes in an election to govern without the right-wing Likud Party.

Libyan Peoples' Congress endorses suicide squads

LONDON (R) — Libya will set up suicide squads to respond to any anti-Libyan "aggression," the United States or Israel, the Libyan News Agency JANA reported Tuesday.

A resolution to this effect was endorsed by a closing session of the Libyan Peoples' Congress (parliament) in the port city of Benghazi Monday night, it said in a dispatch received in London.

"In response to U.S. military provocations and terrorist attacks by the USA off Libyan shores... resolutions were adopted to form suicide squads to strike at enemy targets in the case of any aggression by U.S. imperialism and Zionism," JANA said.

U.S. Sixth Fleet warships twice held manoeuvres this year off the disputed Gulf of Sirte, which Libya claims as its territory. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi threatened then to respond with

suicide missions in Western countries if Libya were attacked.

JANA, monitored by the BBC, said the congress also agreed to tell Mediterranean countries hosting U.S. bases that they would be involved in hostilities if the United States used those bases to strike at Libya.

Other resolutions approved included one proposing talks with Britain aimed at the release of Libyans held in British jails and a restoration of diplomatic links.

Three Libyan students received heavy prison sentences in England a year ago for their part in a bombing mission against opponents of Col. Qadhafi.

Col. Qadhafi said in an interview last September he wanted to restore diplomatic links, broken off after shots from the Libyan embassy in London killed a policeman during an anti-Qadhafi demonstration in April 1984.

Ligachev meets South Yemen party delegation

MOSCOW (R) — Politburo member Yegor Ligachev, number two in the Kremlin leadership, had talks Monday with officials from the Socialist Party of South Yemen, ravaged by civil war earlier this year, TASS reported Tuesday.

The official Soviet news agency said the group from Aden described how the state leadership was restoring the unity of the Socialist Party and its leading role in the life of the country.

They also reiterated the party's commitment to maintaining good relations with the Soviet Union while Mr. Ligachev expressed Moscow's support for its programme of rebuilding South Yemen, TASS said.

Thousands of people were killed and many buildings damaged when fighting broke out in January between two rival pro-Moscow Marxist factions in South Yemen.

The country is one of Moscow's most important allies in the Middle East.

Polisario marks anniversary with trappings of a normal state

By Charles Lambelin

Reuter

HASSI ABDALLAH, Algeria — Guerrillas fighting Morocco for the independence of the Western Sahara have celebrated the 10th anniversary of their self-proclaimed republic with all the trappings of a normal state.

In the middle of one of the most

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barren tracts of the Sahara desert, the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) declared by the Polisario Front guerrillas organised celebrations last week attended by 600 delegates from some of the 63 countries which recognise it.

They were flown from Algiers to Tindouf, 2,000 kilometres away, many on board Algerian military transport planes. From Tindouf, a small oasis town, they were driven over bumpy tracks to "La Youn", a refugee camp named after the main city in Moroccan-administered Western Sahara.

The four huge tented camps, pitched south east of Tindouf on land loaned by Algeria, are the base in exile of the SADR. Celebrations included a military parade, a speech by Polisario head

and SADR President Mohammed Abdul Aziz and folk dances.

The delegates were a mixture of government officials from friendly countries, like Juan Almeida, the number three in Cuba's Communist Party, activists of solidarity movements with the Saharan people and representatives from West European parties like Greece's ruling Pasok. Britain's Labour Party and European Parliament Socialists.

They slept on rugs under the tents like the refugees and on Thursday watched a military parade worthy of a regular army put on by the guerrilla forces.

It was led by veteran units which have been fighting since Moroccan troops first moved into the Western Sahara in late 1975 and shortly before the Spanish flag was hauled down on Feb. 27, 1976.

There were three Franco-Austrian made SK-105 tanks followed by a motley assortment of Howitzers and artillery the Polisario said had been seized from Morocco.

Then came soldiers on foot, about 3,000 in 13 companies, a third of them women ranging from young girls to middle-aged women in khaki, sand-coloured or camouflage uniforms.

Clutching Kalashnikov rifles firmly and swinging their right arm high, they marched across the sandy parade ground decked with SADR flags — green, red, white and black with the Islamic moon crescent and star.

Polisario officials said women were not used in fighting units but were all trained to defend the camps if needed.

Morocco has been extending its defences — a sand and stone barrier known as "the wall" — up to the Algerian border and, since January last year, the front line in the war has been less than 100 kilometres from the camps where 120,000 people who say they fled the Western Sahara now live.

The camps are protected from any Moroccan "bot pursuit" raids by the presence of a strong Algerian garrison in Tindouf, including several squadrons of MiG fighters.

The parade ended with several platoons of armour, including anti-aircraft guns and armoured personnel carriers. Polisario officials said all the equipment had been captured, most when Moroccan troops suffered serious setbacks a few years ago.

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Religious programme

16:30 News in French

16:35 Children's programme

17:35 Cartoons

18:00 Documentary

18:30 Arabic Series

19:30 Documentary

20:00 News in Arabic

20:40 Arabic Series

21:30 Documentary

21:55 Tomorrow's programme

22:00 Wrestling

23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 French Programme

19:00 News in French

19:15 Le theatre de Bourard

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Three's Company

21:10 Documentary — Ancient Lives

22:00 News in English

22:15 Falcon Crest — Double Dealing

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07:00 Light Music

07:30 Morning Show

08:00 Morning Show Cont.

11:00 News Summary

12:00 Pop Session Cont.

12:30 News Summary

13:00 News Bulletin

14:10 The Young Sound

14:15 The Young Sound

15:00 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instruments

16:30 Old Favourites

17:00 Jordan Weekly

17:30 Pop Session

18:00 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show Cont.

21:25 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Hassan Agha at the Gallery of the Housing Bank complex (until March 7)

* An exhibition of selected works by Jordanian and Foreign Contemporary artists at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until March 11)

* Engineering book exhibition and aviation exhibition at Yammouk University, 77261

* French cinema exhibition entitled "Cinema, Cinema" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 13)

* An exhibition of French industrial products and equipment at the Amman Marriott Hotel. In addition to the displays, various French films covering French technologies and industries will be screened during the exhibition (until March 9)

* "La naissance du jour" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre

* "Lina Braker" at 8:00 p.m. at Goethe Institute.

CINEMA

* "La naissance du jour" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre

* "Lina Braker" at 8:00 p.m. at Goethe Institute.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel: 6610267

American Centre - Tel: 64371

British Council - 636147/8

French Cultural Centre - 637009

Goethe Institute - 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre - 642013

Spanish Cultural Centre - 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre - 639777

Hayat Arts Centre - 665195

Hamas Youth City - 667181/6

Y.W.C.A. - 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. - 664251

Amman Municipal Library - 637111

University of Jordan Library - 843555

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) - Tel: 624590

Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) - Tel: 637440

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prime minister meets IDB president

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Tuesday conferred with Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, president of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), who is currently on a visit to Jordan. Dr. Ali is in Amman to prepare for an annual meeting of the bank's board due to be held in Amman between March 18 and 23. The meeting was attended by the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Hussein Al Qasem.

Rifai offers condolences at embassy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Tuesday called at the Swedish Embassy in Amman and offered his condolences to the embassy staff on the death of the late Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Olof Palme. The Swedish Embassy in Amman opened a register for condolences and was visited by senior Jordanian dignitaries who offered their condolences.

One dead, five injured in car crash

AMMAN (J.T.) — One man died and five other people were badly injured in a collision involving two cars on Monday evening near the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the daily Arabic newspaper Sawt Al Shaab reported Tuesday. Police sources quoted by the newspaper said that high speeds and disregard of traffic rules caused this tragic accident. The report said that both the police and the civil rescue operations cooperated in pulling out the injured from the two cars which were totally crushed.

Arab League team studies agriculture

KARAK (Petra) — A delegation from the Arab League Food and Agriculture Organisation Tuesday visited Karak and met with a number of officials at the Karak Agriculture Department. Department Director Mukhlis Amarin spoke about the conditions of farmers in Karak Governorate and the application of agricultural cropping patterns in the region. The delegation later visited the Jordan Valley where they were briefed on the application of agricultural patterns and marketing problems.

Court sentences drug trafficker

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court Tuesday sentenced Wafiq Eijon to eight years in prison and fined him JD 3,000 for trafficking drugs. The sentence has been endorsed by the military governor.

Physicians offer treatment at Afra mineral springs

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of physicians and specialists employed by the Ministry of Health will offer physiotherapy sessions to 14 patients at the Afra mineral springs in Tafila district, a Health Ministry spokesman announced Tuesday. He said that the sessions, which will last 14 days starting Wednesday, are the first of their kind to be offered in Jordan and he added that they will make use of the mineral water which has a therapeutic effect on patients suffering from certain types of ailments.

The sessions have been planned following thorough studies on the effects of the mineral water and will pave the way for more programmes at other mineral water springs and spas in the future, the spokesman said. He said that the Ministry of Health will shortly launch campaigns to encourage people to make use of mineral spring waters wherever they are found in the country.

Hamaneh delivers lecture on Jordan's tourism potential

IRBID (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Information Michael Hamaneh said Tuesday that Jordan needs to implement tourism marketing programmes to attract more visitors to the country. He said in a lecture delivered at Yarmouk University that Jordan's tourist wealth lies in its archaeological treasures, its history, the attractions of the desert and batha regions and the religious sites in addition to the political stability and security it enjoys.

In 1980, the total investments in hotels and other tourist facilities in Jordan amounted to JD 108 million and the total revenues accruing from tourism amounted to JD 155 million, registering JD 47 million in revenues, Mr. Hamaneh pointed out. These figures give an idea about Jordan's potential in tourism and call for more efforts to be made in order to market the country's tourist attractions, Mr. Hamaneh added.

Mr. Hamaneh also spoke about the Jordanian information media's role in promoting tourism which, he said, would in turn have a beneficial effect on the national economy.

A attending the lecture were university deans, students and staff.

Ministry plans seminar on windows, saving energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib will open a seminar on the importance of installing effective windows in buildings to save energy, which is to be held in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society towards the end of this month.

The seminar will discuss a study prepared by the ministry on the effect of windows on the cost of heating in buildings and Jordanian specifications for windows in general. Taking part in the seminar will be representatives of manufacturers of windows, engineering consultant firms, universities, scientific research centres, housing corporations and other concerned organisations in the country.

The minister will also open a seminar on the use of micro computers on Wednesday. Specialists from the European Community are scheduled to deliver lectures at the seminar to be held at the Jordan Electricity Authority in Amman.

Police snare criminals, recover stolen goods

AMMAN (J.T.) — The police departments in Zarqa and Irbid have scored two consecutive victories against crime this week by uncovering the biggest robbery in the history of Zarqa and arresting 35 wanted thieves in the Irbid Governorate, according to Al Rai newspaper.

The Zarqa Police Department was able to track down and to arrest on Sunday a man who broke into one of the main jewellery shops in the town and stole JD 14,000 worth of jewels.

It took the Zarqa police less than a week to trace the thief and restore the jewels.

The 23-year-old thief, whose name was not revealed, tunneled



VOICE OF SUPPORT: The head of a delegation representing Jerusalem speaks at the Royal Court during an audience with His Majesty King Hussein when the delegation visited the Royal Court on Tuesday to express support for the King's leadership and policies (Petra photo)

Alia opts for Airbus to replace Boeings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, during its last meeting reviewed the corporation's 10-year plan relating to its route network and fleet structure with a view to modernising the fleet in order to cater for a moderate growth in traffic, according to an Alia press release.

Alia's 10-year plan provides for the phasing out of the Boeing 707 aircraft by the end of 1986 while the Boeing 727 aircraft will be retained in service until 1990 to be phased out in 1990/91.

The board of directors decided on the Airbus A320 to replace the Boeing 727, three aircraft in 1990 and three in 1991, the release said.

For replacement of the Boeing 707 and to cater for future moderate growth, the 10-year plan provides for the introduction of the Airbus A310-300 starting from Spring 1987 whereby new aircraft will be commissioned into service in 1987, one in 1988, two in 1989 and one in 1990.

The Airbus 310 will perform on medium range routes in Europe and North Africa and would replace the Tri-Stars for operation on long-haul thin routes whereas the Boeing 747 will continue to operate the long-haul dense routes, according to the release.

The board of directors arrived at its decision on the replacement of aircraft after carefully evaluating the various competing offers from manufacturers in all their aspects — technologically, and economically, etc.

The board's purchase decision is subject to approval by the Jordanian government, the release pointed out.

Majali meets new education department directors

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Tuesday met with newly appointed directors of education departments in various governorates of the Kingdom to brief them on their work and he urged them to exert all possible efforts in the course of discharging their duties.

He said that the ministry's reorganisation of its various departments aims to develop a decentralised administration system for affairs concerning education. For this to be achieved, each school has also been given wide authorities and decision-making powers, since the school represents the basic and most essential element in the educational process, the minister said.

The department directors, who will assume their posts Wednesday, should realise that the citizen is the most valuable wealth in this country and that the educational process has to be modernised to offer citizens the best service socially, culturally and educationally, the minister said.

He added that the directors of education have been entrusted with new powers in line with the Ministry of Education's policies.

Also addressing the meeting was Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairah, the ministry's secretary general, who stressed that education is the responsibility of officials including teachers, the supervising department and the ministry. The new organisation emphasises the principle of participation by all concerned in promoting the educational process, Dr. Bashairah said.

He called on the new education directors to start preparing budgets for their departments for the next scholastic year and a new table of teachers which will be distributed to various schools.

Last Saturday the Ministry of Education issued a communiqué appointing new heads of education departments and also appointing aides for planning, services and the supervision of schools.

French industrial exhibition opens

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq Tuesday inaugurated a five-day exhibition of French electro-mechanical equipment, machinery and industrial products at the Marriott Hotel in Amman.

The event is organised by the Strasbourg-based Society of Representation and Marketing Consultants of Economic and Sociological Studies (SRMES) in collaboration with the French Embassy in Jordan.

On display at the exhibition are a wide-range of activities which SRMES represents as well as a film show of French industry which will be shown at throughout the exhibition every day from between 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. SRMES is a consulting engineering company active in the following industries: Petroleum, chemical and petrochemical, electrical, mechanical and metallurgical, irrigation and agricultural material and machines, pharmaceuticals and medical products, food processing, fertilisers, study and building of foundries, ironworking plants, mines and quarries, building materials, as well as maintenance quality control and supervision of the execution of works.

The organisation is a private-owned company which was accepted in 1985. It is a representation and marketing company whose objective is the presentation of French or multinational companies, to carry out marketing studies for the French market as well as international markets to provide commercial and industrial information and any other associated activities and services.

Imports, exports

France's imports from Jordan in 1985 totalled FR 2.5 million and the imported products were pot-

Hamzeh outlines plans to develop Bashir Hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry is taking steps to develop and expand Al Bashir government hospital in Amman and to provide it with highly qualified physicians and specialists, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting to discuss the hospital's annual report, the minister said that a special committee has been set up to work out a programme for training the hospital's staff. The Ministry of Health will set up a special directorate to take charge of medical training courses and will give such programmes all backing and assistance, Dr. Hamzeh added.

The minister paid tribute to the hospital's staff and their efforts in providing medical treatment to a great number of people, despite the modest technical equipment found in a number of its sections.

At the meeting, the minister said he discussed the prospect of assigning interns to do training at private hospitals in Jordan with their salaries to be paid by the Health Ministry.

The Health Ministry has granted special permits to a number of leading specialists employed in government hospitals to do part time work after office hours so as to give them an incentive to remain working for the public sector, Dr. Hamzeh said.

He said that this measure was adopted after finding that most prominent specialists left their full time jobs with the government to work in private hospitals or clinics.

Discussing the subject of transferring the paramedical institute from Al Bashir Hospital, the minister said that due to the pressure of work on the hospital, this institute will be moved to Zarqa's new hospital at Russeifa. The minister said that the new hospital will be set up on 500 dunums owned by the Health Ministry.

The Ministry of Health is now preparing to dispatch specialists and technicians to foreign countries to obtain training on maintaining equipment used in hospitals, Dr. Hamzeh announced.

He also announced that a new section will be added to Al Bashir Hospital to deal with burns and that Dr. Ghaidh Shbeilat, the famous plastic surgeon, is to prepare the work which is due to start in the coming few weeks. The minister said that plans for setting up a new children's hospital have been laid and it will be built next to Al Bashir Hospital.

Another new annex to Al Bashir Hospital will be the new emergency and first aid section to reduce pressure on the main building, Dr. Hamzeh continued.

The minister referred to the shortage in nursing staff and said that the Health Ministry has contacted a number of countries, including Yugoslavia, Turkey, Tunisia and China, to contract nurses for different hospitals in Jordan.

Khayyat meets secretary of Islamic cities organisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Tuesday conferred with Sheikh Abdul Qader Khashak, secretary general of the Islamic capitals and cities organisation. The minister spoke about the conditions of Islamic sites and Al Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Arab territories and the violations against their sanctity by the Zionist occupation authorities.

Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh also met with Sheikh Abdul Qader and briefed him on the development of public services in Amman and also on the construction of public gardens. Mr. Rawabdeh showed the visitor a documentary on Amman, illustrating the different improvements and projects for modernisation. The meeting was attended by the deputy mayor of Arab Jerusalem Rawhi Al Khatib.

While France's exports to Jordan in 1985 reached a total of FR one billion in bulk food, dairy products, and heavy machinery, according to Mr. Edouard Meyer, commercial councillor at the French Embassy in Amman, Mr. Meyer told the Jordan Times that France and Jordan maintain excellent trade and commercial relations and he said that France was helping to lessen the wide gap between exports and imports to Jordan.

Local projects implemented by French companies include: the fertiliser plant in Aqaba, the heart department at the King Hussein Medical Centre, the Gateway Hotel, the newly inaugurated Royal Command and Staff Academy.

Mr. Meyer expressed France's readiness and willingness to get new contracts signed between the two countries in the fields of telecommunications, machinery and equipment and transport.

Jordanian teams start major development projects to aid drought victims in Sudan

Civil, agricultural engineers and medical specialists to carry out 3-year rehabilitation schemes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is carrying out a three-year rehabilitation project in Sudan and is helping with the development of the city of Kass in an all out effort to aid the victims of drought and famine in the country, according to the rapporteur of the Jordanian National Committee for the Relief of the Sudanese People, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi.

He said that the projects entail laying water and electricity networks, drilling artesian wells, constructing a secondary agricultural school and introducing building systems for irrigation as well as carrying out maintenance on a local airport which will be used for Jordanian planes bringing in relief supplies to the stricken regions of Sudan. Dr. Abbadi said that in addition the Jordanian medical centre and hospital continues to provide treatment to the victims.

An integrated Jordanian engineering team is now involved in preparing plans and designs for Kass and is expected to complete the work in a week's time after which the members of the team will return to Jordan, Dr. Abbadi added.

He said that the national Jordanian committee is exerting efforts in other areas of Sudan such as supplying medical supplies and offering medical services, especially in the Karima district east of the country.

Dr. Abbadi went on to say that the project is being carried out under the directives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is intensifying efforts to help finance these and other similar projects in Sudan through contacts with the Islamic Development Bank.

At present, Dr. Abbadi continued, all the projects for Sudan are being financed through the funds and in-kind assistance which the Jordanian national committee

has raised through contributions from Jordanian citizens and organisations.

Commenting on the same subject in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, a committee member, Dr. Anwar Bilbeisi, said that a medical team which has been to Sudan returned to Amman Monday after spending two months offering service to the people in the stricken areas. The team, which has recently been replaced by another, conducted 188 surgical operations and offered treatment to 25,000 patients and provided vaccines to 4,000 children, Dr. Bilbeisi said. He added that 1,600 patients received treatment at the Jordanian hospital in Kass over the past two months while medical teams gave treatment to more than 50,000 people outside the hospital.

The medical teams have been visiting Kass and other areas of Sudan and they include specialists in various fields of medicine as well as technicians who carried out maintenance work on existing facilities at the local hospital, Dr. Bilbeisi said. But he complained of the shortage of nursing staff which, he said, had made the teams' work more difficult.

Cable of thanks

Meanwhile, the town council of Kass expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan for Jordan's assistance. In a cable sent to the Jordanian medical team in the city, the council paid tribute to the Jordanian effort to help the Sudanese people. The council expressed hope that further relief and medical supplies will continue to reach the victims from Jordan.



Sudanese women and children at the Jordanian hospital in Kass (Petra photo)

'Israeli designs go beyond occupation'

First (Continued from page 1)

During Tuesday's audience, Mr. Assem Goshbeh delivered a speech on behalf of the Jerusalem delegation in which he voiced total support for the King's relentless endeavours to arrive at an honourable settlement to the Palestinian question. Mr. Goshbeh called for a swift action to counter the Israeli expansionist policy "before it is too late."

The delegation believes that the liberation of the occupied territories should be given priority, Mr. Goshbeh said adding that it supported the King's call for an international peace conference to implement U.N. Resolutions 242

and 338 for a comprehensive settlement whereby the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people will be guaranteed.

The delegation's audience with the King was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

GCC condemns Iranian presence

(Continued from page 1)

the U.N. Security Council to contain the hostilities.

Mr. Ibn Alawi said a unified Arab stance was needed to confront battlefield aggression following the Feb. 9 Iranian invasion of the Fao Peninsula.

"It is our obligation to inform our brothers in the Arab World of the new developments which bear directly on the interests of our nations in addition to portraits of an expansion of the scope of the war," said Mr. Ibn Alawi, speaking in his capacity as chairman of the GCC.

He said the GCC and the rest of the Arab World are indivisible, and "a joint Arab working group is necessary" to help get the Iranians out of the Iraqi territory.

He said the issue would be taken up at the Arab League foreign ministers regular session scheduled for March 25 at the league headquarters in Tunisia.

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Soviet party congress: Critique of the past

By Roxinne Ervasti

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Among themselves, western journalists have been calling the 27th Soviet Communist Party congress a "Brezhnev bashing" because of the heavy criticism of the late leader and his era.

But criticism of previous rulers is nothing new — it's a Soviet tradition. It satisfies the need to place blame for unfulfilled promises and backfiring policies without questioning the system itself.

Leonid I. Brezhnev, who ruled for 18 years, has not been named in the speeches by the 5,000 delegates. But the attacks, led by party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, on "inertia, sta-

gnation, toadyism" left no doubt who and what was targeted.

The speeches invariably refer to the 1970s and early 1980s. Brezhnev ruled until his death in November 1982. The current party congress is the first since Brezhnev's death.

Brezhnev's name, as far as is known, has come up only once in the first week of the congress. He and other politburo members who have died since the last congress in 1981 were paid brief tribute.

Western reporters are not allowed in the congress hall and must rely on the Soviet press for most accounts of the proceedings.

Gorbachev is breaking with the past and all it represented: Rampant corruption, a stagnant eco-

nomy, a populace and even party grown passive because of a leadership now pictured as self-serving, slogging and slumbering through major problems.

The most famous break with the past was in 1956, when Nikita S. Khrushchev denounced his predecessor, Josef V. Stalin, in a "secret speech."

Delivered at a closed session of the 20th party congress exactly 30 years to the date this congress convened, the speech was rapidly circulated here and abroad.

Khrushchev railed against the "cult of personality" that Stalin built and the violations of law under him. It shook the foundations of what had been a Moscow monolith in the Communist world.

Soviets were shocked that the man they had been taught to worship as a wise leader was suddenly disgraced.

Khrushchev pulled off what at the time was heresy by leaning on Lenin, the first post-revolutionary leader. Lenin, who died in 1924 and was succeeded by Stalin, was opposed to hero worship although the party has used his name since as a focusing point on the revolutionary ideals.

Khrushchev broke the link Stalin claimed with Lenin by citing Stalin's transgressions against the revered founder of the Soviet state.

Khrushchev was ousted in 1964. His successors denounced his "voluntarism, subjectivism" and "hare-brained schemes." He died a nonperson.

Like Khrushchev, Brezhnev consolidated power by castigating the man before him. Brezhnev was effusively praised as a war hero and wise party and state leader.

Brezhnev's glorification did not

crash immediately upon death. He was succeeded by Yuri V. Andropov, for 15 years the head of the KGB security police.

Andropov, according to the official medical report on his death, started kidney dialysis three months after his rise to power. The illness, which took him completely out of public view for nearly six months before his death in February 1984, may have been a reason he did not heavily attack his predecessor.

He began a crackdown on corruption and lax discipline — indirect attacks on Brezhnev. He launched economic experiments and got four men appointed to the ruling politburo. Instead of trampling Brezhnev's memory, Andropov focused attention on his goals during his 15-month rule.

He was succeeded by Konstantin U. Chernenko, a personal

friend and adviser of Brezhnev. At 72, Chernenko was the oldest party chief ever. A sickly man in his 13 months in power, he accomplished little.

As a transition leader, it was not his domain to attack Andropov. Gorbachev, an Andropov favorite, succeeded Chernenko upon his death in March 1985. The youngest party leader since Stalin, Gorbachev is likely to lead into the 21st century unless his political fortunes fall.

He has ambitious goals and must rally the country behind him. Thus, he has attacked the Brezhnev era heavily, especially as a way to get his own people into position.

To do this, he too is leaning on Lenin, but in a new way. He is citing Lenin's admonishments that honest self-criticism must be the way for all.

One would have thought...

THE government's decision to resume retail pricing of fruits and vegetables, after revoking the system for several months, is the kind of flip-flop decision-making that has earned the Jordanian agricultural sector such a sour reputation over the years. We are told, and we believe it, that revoking the pricing system did not produce the desired results. Fair enough. The question then becomes: How in the name of The Heavens, The Earth and The Cosmic Elements does the government institute a decision-making process that achieves the desired results?

It has become an unfortunate habit for most new governments to sweep aside many of the policies of the previous government, promising swift and effective reforms that will bring The Good Life and Justice to all. The result of a succession of major policy reversals, followed often by counter-reversals, is to instill in the minds of the Jordanian citizen, businessman, farmer and consumer a sense of confusion measured in industrial quantities.

In the agriculture sector, for example, we have a real problem in the over-production of some fruits and vegetables. Freeing prices was thought to be a means of balancing the supply and demand equation through free market pricing forces. Apparently, it did not work. So the situation is reversed again, and price controls are re-imposed. What happens, in the meantime, to the hundreds or thousands of farmers, businessmen, investors or ordinary citizens who may have made long-term business decisions based on the fact that there would be no more retail price controls? Are they simply out of luck? And why should a parallel market in produce work now when it did not work a few years ago, when the same idea was floated?

Our objection to this practice is that such abrupt decisions and reversals of decisions will hurt the government's, and the country's, credibility in the long run. One would have thought that a small, educated country such as ours by now would have developed a decision-making process by which those whose lives are affected by government decisions are directly involved in the decision-making process in the first place — thereby helping to ensure that the decisions that are made have a good chance of achieving their objectives, and that national policies instituted have a good chance of surviving the next change of government.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Commitment to Rabat resolution

KING Hussein, in his meetings with delegations visiting the Royal Court Monday, announced that he was not against the PLO but he was only in disagreement with its leadership. The King also voiced Jordan's total support for the Rabat summit resolutions which considered the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. With this statement the King wanted to put things in their right perspective and stop any wrong interpretation of Jordan's decision to end all political coordination with the PLO leadership. King Hussein said he is committed to help the Palestinians in the face of the common enemy and the same danger, and it is up to the Palestinians to choose their leadership. King Hussein said that Jordan appreciates the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli occupation and will continue to extend all possible help that enables them to liberate their land from Israel and free themselves from domination and oppression. The King made it clear that Jordan cannot give up one inch of Arab land and will continue to pursue all efforts to regain the land and the holy places. King Hussein's statement Monday came to stop any evil interpretations of his decision concerning the relationship with the PLO leadership.

Al Dustour: Commitment to Palestine

KING Hussein Monday reiterated that Jordan will remain committed to the 1974 Rabat Arab summit resolutions which stated that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. During his meeting with various delegations visiting him at the Royal Court, King Hussein emphasized Jordan's total commitment to the Palestine cause and to help the Palestinian people in their endeavours to regain their rights. King Hussein is keen on maintaining strong relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, and Jordan's policy for supporting the Palestinian brothers will remain unchanged. But the King said that he was in disagreement with the PLO leadership only because of its retreat from its declared commitments. Jordan, King Hussein said, cannot go back on its commitments and its pledges of support for the Palestinian people and therefore, will work to bolster relations further with this people and to march along with this people towards the fulfilment of national aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaub: Terrorist acts

THE murderers of Zafer Al Masri, like those who killed the Swedish Prime Minister and the Indian Prime Minister, are criminals, outcasts and terrorists. They commit actions without any real cause or meaning but through their actions they cause a great deal of damage and suffering. These assassins are bankrupt and the only thing they can do is to kill and commit crime. The killing of Zafer Al Masri came from those who lost the confidence of their own people and by those who have given up the struggle for the return of the Palestinian land. They just sit comfortably in Arab or foreign capitals looking on at what happens inside the occupied Arab territory without lifting a finger to help its people. By killing Zafer Al Masri, the assassins have thus escalated a new cycle of violence and opened the way for reprisals and further killings, causing further sufferings. The only beneficiary of this vicious cycle of terror is the Israeli enemy. Those who killed Zafer Al Masri could have instead directed their guns to the tormentors of the Palestinian people and the usurpers of Palestinian rights and land.

'Reagan doctrine' is under fire from both sides

By Sue Baker
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's vaunted support for what he calls anti-Communist freedom fighters, dubbed the "Reagan doctrine," has come under renewed fire from all sides since his recent decision to aid Angolan rebels.

Reagan's conservative supporters complain the policy is long on rhetoric and short on action while critics are agitated at what they see as an increasingly interventionist U.S. foreign policy.

Still others view the Reagan doctrine as a mishmash of ad hoc decisions with no apparent consistency or strategy.

"You are not alone, freedom fighters. America will support your right not just to fight and die for freedom, but to fight and win freedom — in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, and Nicaragua," Reagan said in his recent state of the union address.

But of eight insurgencies around the world fighting Soviet-backed or Marxist governments, the United States is known to be supplying or intending to supply material aid to only four — in Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Angola.

Reagan frequently mentions U.S. support for these four insurgencies, but he has ignored rebels fighting the Communist governments of Laos and Vietnam.

Moreover, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has rejected aid requests from anti-Marxist Ethiopian rebels while in Mozambique, the administration has lent political support to the Marxist government, not to the rebel Renamo group.

"We have such a piecemeal theory. We hop from crisis to crisis like little kids," said senator Alfonse D'Amato, a conservative member of Reagan's Republican Party.

Many conservatives want to see Reagan's rhetoric backed up unequivocally with open material aid — in amounts that would be effective rather than token.

The most dedicated freedom fighters in the world cannot fight Soviet MI-24 helicopters with "humanitarian" supplies of boots and bandages," two House Republican leaders told Reagan in a letter last week supporting military aid for the "contra" guerrillas in Nicaragua.

Congressman Robert Michel and Dick Cheney said the 27-million-dollar non-lethal aid programme for the contras, which expires at the end of next month, has had "no appreciable effect on the course of the conflict in Nicaragua."

But opponents say such aid is an abuse of the term humanitarian as the money could still be used to provide helicopters, radar and intelligence.

By far the largest chunk of the CIA's fund for covert military activities goes to Afghan Mujahideen rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul — some \$650 million over the last five years, according to published reports.

Congress also earmarked \$15 million in non-lethal supplies for the Mujahideen this year and last year voted \$3.35 million of similar aid for two non-Communist Cambodian rebel groups fighting the Vietnamese-backed government.

This week, the administration disclosed it would provide arms soon to Angolan rebels led by Jonas Savimbi, who visited Washington this month seeking U.S. weapons. The move was described by the Luanda government as a "declaration of war."

But while conservatives complain Reagan talks tougher than he acts, opponents argue that the president could embroil America in a costly direct involvement — another Vietnam war.

This argument has been made especially by opponents of U.S. military support for the Nicaraguan rebels.

"I don't think the president of the United States will be happy

until troops are in there, and I'm going to do everything in my power to stop that," Democratic congressman Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, said during a debate on aiding the contras.

It is that fear, according to analysts, that has prevented U.S. involvement in Laos or Vietnam and kept aid to Kampuchean insurgents low.

Dimitri Simes, a Soviet expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the Reagan doctrine had been tempered by pragmatic concern for regional realities.

"It is one thing to have a moral disposition in favour of (anti-Communist) rebels, but quite another thing to embrace them indiscriminately," he said.

An analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation said the Reagan doctrine, while not achieving what administration officials have described as containing

"Soviet expansionism," had at least checked Moscow's designs around the world.

"The success is maintaining the status quo," said the analyst, who asked not to be identified.

But two conservative columnists said Reagan himself was to blame for what they saw as a lack of concrete aid for "freedom fighters."

Rowland Evans and Richard Novak wrote in the Washington Post recently that it was "Reagan's own failure to compel the bureaucracy to carry out his doctrine of reversing the Communist tide by helping freedom fighters across the world."

"It is up to the president to go beyond rhetoric," they said. "Weapons for Afghan rebels, aid to Nicaragua's contras and help for Angolan anti-Soviet guerrillas Jonas Savimbi all hinge on Reagan's determination to save his doctrine from death by disuse."

Showdown looms in Sri Lankan conflict

By Dalton de Silva
 Reuter

COLOMBO — The Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels are heading for a military showdown after beefing up their fighting forces in recent months, diplomats in Colombo have said.

Prospects of an early settlement of the bloody conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils appeared to be fading after Sri Lanka last week accused India of bias over the issue, which has resulted in 3,000 deaths in three years.

India, which has acted as mediator in trying to arrange a political solution, said Sri Lanka was dragging its feet and demanded that it come up with a settlement within a month.

Indian officials expressed alarm after President Junius Jayewardene said last month the Tamil rebel groups were a military problem and his forces would crush them within the year.

About 50 million Tamils living in

the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu have close ethnic and cultural links with the 1.9 million Tamils in Sri Lanka who make up 12.5 per cent of the island's population.

Sri Lankan security forces say an estimated 10,000 Tamil rebels fighting for an independent state in the north and east have recently received arms and reinforcements from southern India, a charge the Indian government denies.

They say the rebels are equipped with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, machine-guns and landmines.

To meet the threat, the government has allocated \$216 million, almost 10 per cent of this year's budget, to strengthen the security forces.

Diplomats say Sri Lanka has bought high-speed patrol boats as well as Italian-built Marchetti aircraft and Bell helicopter gunships which have begun pounding suspected rebel bases from the air.

Simultaneously, the strength of the security forces has been almost

doubled to 30,000 men, some trained by British and Israeli experts.

A commando group called the Special Task Force has been trained by former members of the British Special Air Services (SAS) and Israelis are training security men in intelligence gathering, diplomats say.

Both sides have accused the other of boosting their forces during a frequently-violated ceasefire mediated by an envoy of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last June.

Despite Indian efforts to revive them, Colombo's relations with New Delhi reached a new low last week as External Affairs Minister B.R. Bhagat said Sri Lanka's policy towards the Tamils contained "elements of genocide."

Colombo, responding to India's threat to raise the killings of Sri Lankan Tamils with the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, told New Delhi: "Physician, heal thyself" — an apparent reference to frequent communal conflicts in India.

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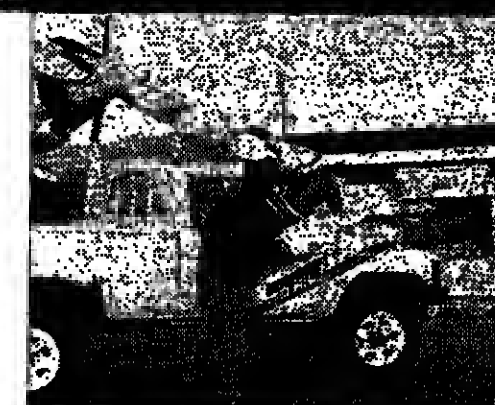
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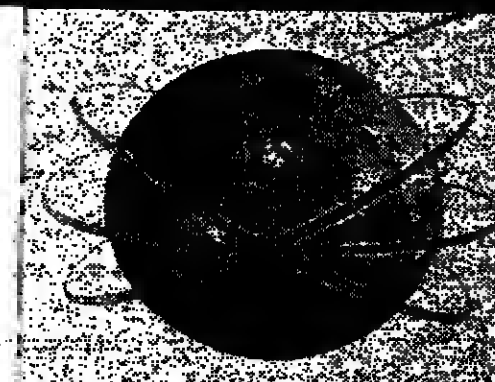
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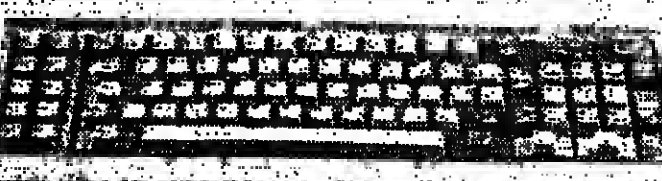


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A house that runs on solar energy

By Louise Broby

COPENHAGEN (CNF) — From the outside, they look like traditional Danish farmhouse-style homes with yellow painted walls and standing red-tiled roofs. Except for the stainless steel sun-catchers and a windmill nearby.

This complex of six semi-detached homes in the Copenhagen suburb of Karlslunde runs on sun and residual heat and earned its designer, Ole Bindrup, the title "Energy-saver of the year."

In a nation which for several months of the year has below-zero temperatures, ideas to reduce energy bills are pursued eagerly. The Karlslunde complex has an energy system which draws on the rays of sun and the natural heat-retaining capacity of the ground.

Specially-selected building materials give high energy utilisation. A windmill supplies electricity to the local power grid, offsetting the cost of the electricity used to operate the system.

The director of the Danish Energy Secretariat, Peter Olesen, said the secretariat organised a nationwide contest "to encourage any project which is based on renewable forms of energy."

The prize went to Bindrup's project, because "it is a unique combination of different forms of alternative energy — it does not rely on just one source. The system works very well, and the annual energy bill for the complex is zero."

Bindrup explained in an interview how the project came about.

"I have been interested in renewable energy for some time, and in my work as a building inspector for the municipality, I am familiar with the various insulating materials, the building regulations, etc."

"I decided to build my own cluster of houses with the most effective renewable energy system possible, and through an advertisement, I got together a group of interested people."

"We all sat down and worked out the cost of various combinations of energy, including oil and natural gas. In the end, we came up with a system which excluded conventional energy altogether."

"According to our calculations, the system would cost us nothing to operate once the installation costs had been met."

The group chose a building site in the heart of Karlslunde, opposite an old village church. Building started in April 1984 and by the end of the year it was ready for occupation.

The complex consists of six semi-detached housing units, providing homes for six families.

A key element in the energy system is a huge "sun-catcher," placed immediately below a glass panel running the length of the south-facing roof and covering 430 square feet (40 sq m).

The sun-catcher absorbs heat from the sun through its stainless

steel, nickel-treated surface, and heats up the water in a tank below. At a temperature outside of only 10°C, the water can reach 100 degrees.

The 55 kw windmill in the open field adjoining the house also forms part of the system.

It produces some 92,000 kw/h of electricity per annum, which is sold to the electricity board. The revenue is used to pay for the electricity used inside the house which comes off the main grid.

Electricity is used to operate an 8 kw pump which selectively circulates the heated water from the sun-catcher through a system of copper pipes into the four tanks on the ground of the two-story house.

Three of the tanks meet the hot water requirements of the families; the fourth stores excess hot water. Some of the hot water is circulated into a network of plastic pipes built into the floors of the house which heat the rooms through the porous stone floors.

Further surplus heat is pumped into the ground outside the house where another 1,000-foot (300 m) network of pipes lies some 28 inches (70 cm) below the surface.

Here the water is stored and some heat given off to the surrounding ground. Thus an insulating storage space is formed, and the warm water from the pipes can be recirculated when further heat is needed.

"With the heat coming up through the floor, you get a wonderfully even temperature and no draughts," said Bindrup.

If the temperature drops below zero, a small amount of extra heat is needed. Bindrup and his colleagues worked out that in extreme temperatures, the cheapest form of heating could be provided by a simple log burner, and one was installed in each housing unit.

Another energy-preserving factor is insulation.

"For reasons of economy, we did not use the most expensive materials, but the house has been built to standards at least 50 per cent higher than the minimum stipulated by the building regulations," Bindrup said.

"Heavy rather than light materials have been used wherever possible. All floors are made of porous stone, for instance, and we have avoided the use of wood for partitions."

"Although heavy materials such as stone take longer to heat up, they also retain the heat much longer."

Installing an alternative energy plant is not cheap. "The project



Ole Bindrup (above), designer of an award-winning alternative energy housing complex, pictured outside the complex with the solar panels in

the roof. Below: Another view of the six-house complex in Copenhagen.



represents quite a high investment," Bindrup said.

"The system works out at some \$17,500, compared with the cost of a conventional oil or natural gas system of \$10,000. But the running costs of the system are zero."

The project was aided by a grant scheme run by the Energy Ministry.

The energy-saving philosophy extends to the organisation of housework.

"We thought the best way to save even more energy would be

to centralise core activities such as cooking and washing," said Bindrup.

"Instead of six families each doing these chores, they are all done in the same room. It's a form of communal living without loss of privacy."

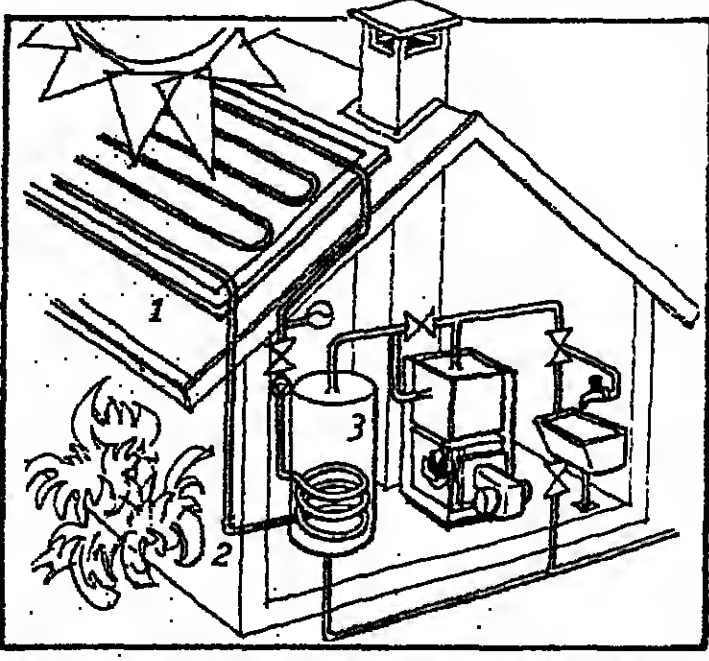
"Three times a week, two of the women cook for all the families, and the 12 adults and 12 children eat together at the long white pine table in the kitchen."

Other communal facilities include a sewing room, a washing room with modern laundry fac-

ilities, a hobby room, and a children's playroom with mattresses strewn all over the floor.

If Bindrup was to rebuild the complex, would he make improvements?

"The next step would be to install computer control," he said. "To make the plant work at peak efficiency is a question of balance, and with a computer the system could be much more finely tuned, making a better distribution of heat to the various sub-systems — Arah News."



How does it work: (1) The sun heats on the solar panel in the roof, (2) heat is transferred through pipes to storage tanks, and (3) storage tank holds and distributes heated water to points through the house.

Indonesia's generals become captains of industry

Indonesia's armed forces control a vast range of businesses from agriculture to banking and shipping. Alain Cass, recently in Jakarta, reports that this empire is now being broken up in an effort to make it more profitable, as well as more accountable.

WHAT do one of Jakarta's favourite disquisitions, Indonesia's assembly line for Volkswagen cars, a small but profitable charter airline and 600,000 acres of primary forest in Kalimantan have in common?

Answer: they are all owned by the Indonesian armed forces which control a business empire stretching across the whole country with interests in shipping, films, automobiles, coffee, timber, cement, banks, insurance and a great deal else besides.

Today this unwieldy but secretive business empire, the assets of which run into billions of dollars — although nobody knows exactly how much — is undergoing a thorough shake-up in an effort to make it more efficient as well as more accountable. Unprofitable companies are being closed down, new management methods are being introduced, civilian managers are being appointed and stricter financial controls are being implemented.

The shake-up began after General Soeharto took over as armed forces chief in 1983. General Soeharto, a confidant of President Suharto and probably Ind-

onesia's second most powerful man, has launched a major reorganisation of the country's armed forces.

The army has dominated Indonesian politics since the abortive coup d'état in 1965. President Suharto is a general; so is the vice-president. Fourteen out of 37 ministers are serving or retired military officers. Most regional governors and 50 per cent of the ambassadors of this nation of 165 million people are generals.

In fact, since the achievement of independence in 1945 the armed forces have been the prime source for trained leadership and administrative manpower, playing leading roles at every level of government in the country's development.

What is less well known is the extent of the armed forces' direct involvement in the nation's business affairs. The web of companies operated independently by local, regional and central commands provides an intriguing insight into some of the key forces at play in a society where the military life — provided you come from the Javanese elite — still offers one of the fastest ways to status

and wealth.

The companies provide a vital source of revenue to supplement the meagre defence budget. They have a social as well as a strictly business function. Their profits have been used for purposes as diverse as the purchase of fighter aircraft, the building of thousands of homes for low-ranking and retired servicemen and looking after war widows.

Nobody knows how much revenue the military companies generate since they, in common with many Indonesian companies, do not publish accounts. But the most reliable estimates by military observers in Jakarta reckon the companies provide the armed forces with funds equivalent to between 30 and 50 per cent of the official defence budget.

Indonesia's military businesses are also an essential component in the country's complex system of patronage and reward for poorly-paid military officers who might otherwise become disaffected and pose a threat to the regime. They are widely credited with having played an important role in preventing any serious coup attempts against President Suharto's regime over the past 20 years.

"With colonels earning no more than \$225 a month and generals less than \$500 a month," said one

foreign executive involved in the military business, "a top job with one of these companies represents a heaven-sent opportunity to get rich quick."

The army's involvement in business began in the 1950s. At the time regional commands had few funds other than those they generated themselves. President Suharto, then a colonel in Central Java, set up a foundation which operated businesses whose profits met the needs of his unit. It was the army which started and operated the oil company Pertamina before it was taken over by the state. Over the next few years powerful local commanders established a bewildering array of hundreds of businesses across the country.

On the positive side, this created a new class of military officer with management and administrative skills in business. Many of the rolling military elite benefited from this experience to get to the top, including President Suharto.

On the negative side, some officers used these companies merely to amass personal wealth, leaving the companies to languish in a morass of mismanagement and corruption. (The most spectacular failure of a military company was the collapse of the army-owned

Bank Dharma Ekonomi in 1968.

The most recent of the military companies to be streamlined is the army's. Each of the services has a foundation which governs a holding company. This, in turn, coordinates the activities of several businesses. By far the biggest of these holding companies is Tri Usaha Bakti which is now run by Mr. Soefyan Wanandi, a Chinese businessman.

The Chinese are distrusted in Indonesia, so it may appear surprising that a Chinese civilian has been entrusted with such a sensitive post. However, the Javanese elite recognises Chinese flair for business and has developed links with prominent Chinese business families.

Since taking over at Tri Usaha Bakti, Mr. Wanandi has closed more than 15 companies which, he says, were not profitable. The group now controls 20 companies with total sales of around \$250 million.

The army's biggest money-spinner is its logging and plywood activities in Kalimantan. PT ITCI owns over 600,000 acres of prime forest around the boomtown of Balikpapan in East Kalimantan. It employs 3,000 people and has a turnover of \$100 million a year.

Tri Usaha Bakti's other major

activities include a construction and engineering company in which Jurong Engineering of Singapore has a stake. "We export coffee, quinine, tea — all grown on our plantations in Sumatra," says Mr. Wanandi.

The new civilian managers appointed to military companies have been told to close unprofitable businesses and restructure the remaining ones so that they are run more professionally. Their biggest problem, as one admits, is to "get all these retired officers to become professional managers."

Mr. Wanandi has done this by mixing retired soldiers with professional managers. There has, he admits, been some tension "but nothing serious."

Another problem, says a military observer in Jakarta, is that professional managers like Mr. Wanandi have little choice in picking their senior staff. "There's an element of jobs for the boys," he says. "If the president wants to find a cushy number for a general he wants to retire he'll simply give him one of the companies to run."

Tri Usaha Bakti has recently taken on an international firm of accountants to audit its books. "We are on the way to becoming just like any other business concern," says Mr. Wanandi — Financial Times news feature.

The blind 'see' — bat fashion

BATS' system of orientation supplied the idea for an orientation aid for the blind developed by the Frankfurt Institute in close collaboration with the firm of Sennheiser Electronics and backed up financially by the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology. One fact which came to light during the development was the human ear may be accorded more powers of differentiation than have probably been considered possible to date.

Certain species of bat can take their bearings in total darkness, frequently to within a few millimetres, from the echo of their own ultrasonic calls. This echolocation principle has been used in the past in orientation aids for the blind, although, say the developers of the new system, much too synoptically. For past developments also made use of ultrasonic signals, which then had to be converted electronically to the audible range and ended by overtaxing the user's sense of hearing.

The new method is simpler.

Basic studies conducted by the Battelle Institute revealed that the human ear was capable, without any electronics, of locating with a fair degree of accuracy the direction and remoteness of sound, especially of short chirping noises. Hence, in the new system, such chirping signals of about a hundredth of a second duration and spaced at intervals of a second are emitted from a flat black box strapped to the user's chest in the direction of his progress. The echo of such signals can apparently be processed so efficiently that "a conscious conversion process and the necessary course of instruction" are unnecessary.

One of the main difficulties met with was the chirping signals themselves, which now cover a frequency range of 12 to 1,000 Hertz in a hundredth of a second. The equipment is now to go on test at the German Institute for Studies of the Blind in Marburg; whether and in what numbers it is to go into series production will depend upon the results of the test — The German Research Service.

Semen weakens AIDS immunity

TOKYO — A team of Japanese medical scientists said recently that high levels of a naturally occurring hormone-like substance found in semen might be the reason that homosexual men are most susceptible to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

When introduced into the body in large quantities during anal intercourse, the substance might compromise the body's immune system, the scientists said. They added that repeated anal intercourse might also stimulate propagation of the human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV-3) or the AIDS virus.

At a press conference, a spokesman for the team, which is headed by Osamu Hayashi, president of the Osaka Medical College, described studies in which prostaglandin E2 was injected into male and female rats.

Found in male and female sexual glands as well as other tissues, prostaglandins are a group of fatty acids manufactured in the body that can stimulate the contraction of smooth muscles. There are more than 20 types of natural prostaglandins.

Occurring at high levels in semen, prostaglandin E2 is known to affect the contractions of the uterus and the dilation of the trachea.

In the team's experiments, male and female rats were administered prostaglandin E2 through the anus at a rate of 500 micrograms per kilogram of weight once a day. This quantity is roughly 100 times greater than a human would receive during intercourse.

A check a week later revealed that the immunity of the male rats had deteriorated to about 30 per cent of the female rats. No significant difference was observed

in the immune functions of female rats that had been administered prostaglandin E2 and female control rats that had not.

Another series of experiments showed that when prostaglandin E2 was added to the HTLV-3 virus in a test tube, the speed at which the lymphocytes were infected with the virus was accelerated, doubling the increment of the virus over three days.

Makoto Katori, professor of pharmacology at Kitasato University, outside Tokyo, said it is an "interesting idea" that the team has noted the correlations between AIDS and prostaglandin in semen.

Medical scientists noted that infection with the HTLV-3 virus does not necessarily mean that a person will get AIDS.

In fact, full-blown cases of the syndrome have been reported only among five to 10 per cent of virus carriers in the United States, thus leading to suspicion that not only the virus but also some conditions present in the body of an AIDS patient might be accountable for the appearance of the syndrome.

One factor might be prostaglandin E2, but it does not follow that it is directly tied in with an incidence of AIDS, though Hayashi's team's theory might explain why there are so many AIDS patients among homosexuals in the United States, the scientists said.

But the group's theory falls short of explaining why drug addicts should be infected with AIDS through injection needles, and why the ratio of male AIDS patients to female AIDS patients is one to one in Africa, according to the scientists — Asahi News Service, Tokyo.

U.S. Peace Corps celebrates 25th anniversary, faces uncertain future

By Ted M. Natt Jr.

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Peace Corps, founded by President John F. Kennedy to send U.S. volunteers to help Third World countries develop, is celebrating its 25th anniversary faced with budget cuts and able to support less than half the volunteers it used to have.

But the volunteers it does send abroad are more specialised and have more technical skills than in the early years.

Peace Corps officials at a forum this weekend to discuss the agency's accomplishments and look to its future said they were optimistic the corps would remain a presence in developing countries around the world.

"It's very difficult not to have in remote areas of developing countries, but we are simply obligated (to go), knowing how well the Peace Corps has worked and how much more we have to do," said agency director Loret Miller Ruppe.

Mrs. Ruppe, appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, has been widely praised for her work with the agency. After falling for years, the number of people volunteering to work for the Peace Corps is climbing under Mrs. Ruppe's administration. Last year the corps recruited 3,400 volunteers.

But budget constraints forced Mrs. Ruppe to deny requests from Third World countries for volunteers and to turn away Americans willing to go. She said the agency's 1985 budget was \$130 million; the 1986 budget is to be cut to \$124 million.

R. Sargent Shriver, the agency's first director, said the budget would have to be about \$350 million to match the spending power it had in 1965 when the budget

was \$113 million.

Shriver and Mrs. Ruppe spoke about the agency last Saturday at the John F. Kennedy Library.

Since Kennedy established the Peace Corps in March 1, 1961 over 120,000 Americans have served as volunteers in 93 developing countries. Currently 6,000 Peace Corps volunteers work in 63 countries. At its peak, in 1966, the corps had 15,556 trainees and volunteers.

Because of budget cuts this year, "we've lost 600 slots for volunteers," Mrs. Ruppe said.

Despite the present constraints, forum participants agreed the agency continues to make a valuable contribution to Third World development. They said the thrust of Peace Corps programmes is becoming more technical.

While most of the volunteers in the 1960s were young, liberal-arts-educated generalists, the Peace Corps now attracts specialists in agriculture, engineering, oceanography, biology and other fields.

The organisation's three goals remain the same: To help developing countries meet their needs for trained manpower, to give people around the world a better understanding of Americans and to help Americans better understand the world.

"It's been one of the most phenomenal successes in our time," said journalist Bill Moyers, an associate director of the Peace Corps 25 years ago and a forum participant. "Through some very dark and traumatic times, it has kept alive the same idealism and spirit it had when it began."

Drugs trade adapts and survives despite international drive

By Myra MacDonald

Reuters

PARIS — Concerted efforts to stamp out international drug trafficking have foundered on the trade's ability to adapt and survive, as it finds new products, new markets and new addicts to bolster its profits around the world.

This view of drug suppression officers worldwide emerges from a Reuters survey of the drug trade problem.

"There seems to be an unlimited source of all drugs and an unlimited amount of money being made," said Walter Leamy, head of the drugs division at Interpol, the international police force.

"We are fighting an uphill battle. As long as you have demand, you are going to have a supply," he told Reuters from Interpol's headquarters outside Paris.

Less than 20 years ago, much of the drugs trade centred on Europe, often in the hands of a few mafioso-type families.

While Amsterdam flourished as a key transit point, secret laboratories, clustered around the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles, processed millions of dollars worth of raw heroin for shipment to the United States.

The smashing of the "French connection," a heroin ring spanning the far east, Marseilles and New York, in 1973, was hailed as a major setback for the industry.

But since then the trade has expanded into every part of the world.

In Marseilles, police say they are convinced they have virtually stamped out local heroin production.

However, the drug addicts in the town's run-down housing areas testify to the fact heroin production still thrives. It has simply shifted nearer the source, to clandestine factories close to the opium fields of Asia.

Police say they have started to clamp down on the use of Europe's cities, airports and ports as

transit centres.

But traffickers are carving new routes through Africa, creating along the way a new population of local addicts, Leamy said.

Meanwhile the emergence of cocaine from Latin America — increasingly popular since its price dropped dramatically several years ago — has complicated efforts to stamp out trafficking.

Latin American officials have warned that U.S. efforts to crack down on cocaine production in Peru and Colombia have partly shifted production to Brazil and Ecuador.

Cocaine has also provided a golden opportunity for small-time dealers to muscle in on the lucrative trade.

The trafficking of cocaine exploded in the past five to seven years, with enormous profits to be made, Leamy said.

Individuals could start by bringing only a few kilos from Colombia to the U.S. and return with the profits to buy 100 times that amount. "Suddenly an ent-

repreneur has become a major trafficker because the demand for cocaine is so high."

Overall the pattern of trafficking has changed since the days when mafioso families controlled most of the underworld trade, Leamy added.

Hard-core organised crime still exists, but a variety of new entrepreneurs and middlemen have emerged in recent years. "The market is so big there is plenty for everyone."

A United Nations report out this month also noted that along with a general upward trend in drug seizures, there was a more than fourfold increase in seizures of synthetic drugs like amphetamines in 1984 compared to 1983.

In an attempt to impose control on the drugs industry, governments around the world are boosting police cooperation.

Interpol now reports a day from its 138 member countries on seizures and arrests.

All the information is analysed and recorded in Interpol's database to help identify major traffickers.

Drug specialists from many countries are permanently stationed in major centres and an international ministerial conference is planned next year to help step up cooperation.

In Bangkok there are officers from the United States, Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, Australia, Hong Kong, Britain, West Germany, New Zealand, France, Japan and Interpol.

Thai police Colonel Bamroong Khoo-Urai said a high level of cooperation between the liaison officers and Thai authorities had paid off in multiple heroin arrests in all of those countries except New Zealand.

Police are also switching their targets to the financiers and the people behind the networks, rather than individual smugglers or addicts.

A key aim, officials say, is to find ways to freeze the often huge

profits of jailed drug traffickers

and many countries have introduced laws permitting the seizure of all assets which can be shown to be related to criminal activity.

Other measures include proposals by Britain to make drug smuggling an international crime so it can be prosecuted anywhere.

Police sources added there was often an unwritten rule to leave minor dealers alone so as to catch the people at the top.

"We have knowledge of the identities of major figures," Leamy said. "It is just a matter of time before a country builds up enough evidence to prosecute."

And, unlike the films, "there is no such thing as a Mr. Untouchable."

Times are still getting harder for small-time smugglers, with many countries introducing stiff penalties.

In Malaysia, Australians Kevin Barlow and Brian Chambers, both 28, have been sentenced to death for heroin smuggling.

'Mushers' push on in Alaskan sled dog race

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Sun-softened snow and treacherous downhill stretches slowed the pace of some mushers in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome, while Lavon Barve moved into the lead Monday.

Barve, an Alaskan, drove his 15 dogs out of rainy pass and pushed on Monday toward the next checkpoint at Rohn River, 436 kilometres along the 1,770 kilometre route.

The race started Saturday morning in Anchorage with a record field of 73 mushers. They are competing for a purse of \$200,000, with \$50,000 to the winner.

Barve, who arrived at the rainy Pass Lodge checkpoint two hours behind first arrival Guy Blankenship, moved from a No. 36 starting position to the head of the pack.

"I guess a lot of them got lost

just out of Anchorage. I was running 20th and next thing I know, I was running in front. I'm just taking my breaks, and I'm going to start taking longer ones."

Barve left Rainy Pass at 8:25 a.m. Alaska-Hawaii time on Monday. Next out, at 8:50, was Duane "Dewey" Halverson. The two were followed within the next half-hour by fellow Alaskans Blankenship, Joe Runyan, and Susan Butcher.

Of the 73 starters, 33 are first-timers. There are three competitors from Norway, two from Great Britain, and one each from Italy and Switzerland. Two of the Americans are from the state of

Minnesota and one from Montana. The rest are Alaskans.

Barve said sun-softened snow has balled up in dogs' paws, prompting many mushers to run their dogs at night. "At night, you've got to run and put booties on (the dogs) all the time, so nobody's making any record runs," he said.

A spot in the trail that has given mushers problems in the past continued to do so this year. A curving downhill stretch near the Happy River started Halverson's sled to sliding uncontrollably fast. One of his dogs got caught in the towlines and died, he said.

The endurance test, proclaiming itself "The Last Great Race On Earth," follows the historic Iditarod Trail, a heavily used transportation corridor in the early part of the century, when dog sleds were the primary means of winter travel in Alaska.

British boxers rise to the top as the rest of Europe loses interest

LONDON (R) — Britain's professional boxers are the kings of Europe after winning six of the 11 European crowns over the past 13 months.

But experts believe this impressive record, which could be further improved if Ray Gilbody takes the bantamweight title next Wednesday, is due as much to a decline in standards on the continent than to the brilliance of Britain's fighters.

1985 was the best year for British boxing in 20 years, the highlight being Barry McGuigan's defeat of Eusebio Pedroza to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight title.

On the European front Lloyd Honeyghan's capture of the welterweight crown in January was followed by Frank Bruno winning at heavyweight. Terry Marsh at light-welterweight, Charlie Magri at flyweight, Jim McDonnell at featherweight and, earlier this month, Herol Graham at middleweight.

Take into consideration a December draw for Dennis Andries in a light-heavyweight title bout and it is easy to understand the euphoria among British boxing fans.

"In virtually every case our boxers are good enough to hold a high position in the world rankings. Graham is as good any

other middleweight, except Marvin Hagler, while Andries is among the best at light-heavyweight," Harry Mullap, editor of Britain's leading fight magazine "Boxing News," said.

But most experts agree that competition from other European countries has never been so poor. "We have good boxers, Europe does not," Ray Clarke, secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said.

"There has been a steady decline in the whole of continental Europe over the past decade and with not enough boxers coming through, I can't see it getting any better," Clarke told Reuters.

The number of professional boxers in Britain has doubled to nearly 600 since the beginning of the 1970s but in Spain, once a powerful source of boxers at the lighter weights, only 90 hold professional licences compared with 170 in 1978.

Thirty years ago West Germany had over 120 active boxers, now there are around 30. Deteriorating standards go hand-in-hand with a decline in spectator interest which is itself fuelled by media disinterest in many countries.

In Spain, television has refused to broadcast boxing for the past 10 years and the handful of fans are

restricted to weekly bouts in a former dance hall in Barcelona.

Unlike Spanish crowds, French fans at least have decent boxing venues. But even world title bouts no longer pull in the crowds they used to — American welterweight Milton McCrory attracted a paltry crowd for a bout last July in Monaco's new Louis II Stadium.

West Germany's decline can be traced back to the injury to European welterweight champion Jorg Eipel who lay unconscious in a Paris hospital for a week in 1977 after being knocked out in the last round by France's Alain Marion.

The bad publicity then was mirrored by media coverage recently of the problems of two more of the country's European champions. "Handsome" Rene Weller and Georg Steinherr.

Weller, who lost his lightweight title to Dane Gerd Bo Jacobsen of Denmark, was convicted of receiving stolen goods while light-middleweight Steinherr has twice been convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and is now charged with pimping.

Only in Italy is boxing still in fine fettle, with Patrizio Oliva fighting for the WBA light-welterweight title in March and a selection of useful fighters including heavyweight Francesco Damiani coming to the fore.

"The British at the moment are a big nation in European boxing but these are the normal ups and downs of the sport," a spokesman for the Italian Boxing Federation said.

"With more and more bouts on television, the crowds are not perhaps what they once were. But for any title fight there is always a large crowd," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

FIFA president leaves Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) President Josep Havelange left Amman Tuesday at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, with whom he discussed cooperation between FIFA and the Jordan Football Association. Dr. Havelange also met with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and Minister of Youth Hisham Al Sharari to discuss the development of soccer in Jordan. On Monday Dr. Havelange told a press conference that he would recommend Jordan as a location for a training academy for soccer players of the Middle East.

JTF plans first tennis tourney of 1986

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Tennis Federation recently announced that it would stage its first tournament of the year beginning March 27 at the Al Hussein Tennis Courts. The tournament is open to all court members, and includes competition in men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles. Entrants are limited to two events and entry forms may be obtained at the Al Hussein courts.

Holmes fighting for pride

By Jack Cavanaugh
Reuters

NEW YORK — Humility was never Larry Holmes' strong suit during his 7½-year reign as heavyweight boxing champion.

But losing can be a humbling experience and Holmes showed signs Monday that the only defeat of his professional career — against Michael Spinks last September — had affected him.

At his first news conference since losing the International Boxing Federation title to Spinks in a unanimous but close 15-round decision, Holmes demonstrated none of the boastfulness which characterised his public behaviour in the past.

"I want to thank Michael Spinks for giving me the opportunity to redeem myself," Holmes said.

The elaborate news conference was held at the posh Waldorf-Astoria hotel to publicise a heavyweight world series designed to establish one champion between the three world boxing organisations.

Earlier, the 36-year-old Holmes told reporters that he was seeking a rematch with Spinks, who thwarted his bid to tie Rocky Marciano's record of 49 straight victories, because of pride rather than money.

"I can't say that my pride wasn't hurt when I lost to Michael Spinks," Holmes said. "I still think I won the fight, but they gave

it to Michael and all he did was run away."

"Then after I lost, a lot of people said that I was old and couldn't fight anymore. But I'm going to prove them wrong and reverse my only defeat."

Holmes said he was embarrassed by comments critical of Marciano which he made after the Spinks fight.

"We all make mistakes, particularly in the heat of battle," he said. "And I made a mistake and then made my apologies to the Marciano family. Now, after the fight with Michael Spinks, I hope there's no animosity between me and Michael or anyone else."

Some boxing observers believe Holmes' main reason for seeking a rematch is to enhance his image, not only as a fighter who feels he never got his proper due, but as a person whose angry words following his only defeat antagonised most boxing fans.

Holmes, who recently underwent surgery, looked fit and said he weighed 90 kilograms, which is closed to his fighting weight in recent years.

"For a while I wasn't sure if I wanted to fight again," he said. "But then my three-year-old son, Larry Jr., said, 'Daddy, why don't you go knock his head off.' My wife has been after me to quit fighting for years, but once I made up my mind, I know she's going to support me."

Aguirre goes 82 for two

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks had a great 1-2 punch to beat Phoenix in double overtime.

Mark Aguirre scored 42 points, giving him 82 in his last two games, and Rolando Blackman added six of his 32 points in the second overtime Monday night as the Mavericks edged the Suns 139-138. Blackman provided the winning points when he got behind the Phoenix defence for a dunk with eight seconds left.

"We had a great two-man going with Ro and Mark," Mavericks

coach Dick Motta said.

In other NBA games, it was Seattle 118, Houston 105; Los Angeles Lakers 127, Golden State 117; and Milwaukee 115, New York 108.

The Suns, fighting to get into the playoffs in the last six weeks of the season, appeared to be in control for most of the game. They led 65-54 at halftime and 94-85 after three periods before losing for the sixth time in eight games.

"I thought we had it," said Walter Davis, who led the Suns with 31 points. "I don't know what happened."

Said Motta: "This game was won and lost about five or six different times."

Argentina to rely on talented trio

By Rex Gowar
Reuters

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's World Cup challenge will rest largely on the shoulders of veteran libero Daniel Passarella, superstar Diego Maradona and the precocious skills of newcomer Claudio Borghi.

Passarella, captain of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side, will be a tough nut to crack at the heart of the defence. He is also renowned for his strong surges into attack, deadly free kicks and accurate penalties.

With his club Fiorentina he is only two goals off the legendary Giacinto Facchetti's record of ten goals by a defender in one season in the Italian league.

Maradona, Argentina's captain, needs a good World Cup performance before he can truly be called the world's greatest soccer player.

He wants to make up for a disappointing World Cup in Spain four years ago but has said he puts an Argentine victory ahead of his personal ambitions.

Borghi could turn out to be Maradona's ideal attacking partner, taking over the striking role when Maradona is tightly marked or absorbing some of the marking which rival managers are expected to employ to counter Maradona.

Borghi has played on a world stage only once, but his performance earned the praise of French star Michel Platini.

Platini played opposition Borghi when European Cup holders Juventus met Argentinos Juniors for the world club title in Tokyo last December.

After a superb match, which Juventus won on penalties, Platini

said: "Borghi is like Picasso. He plays that football-tango typical of Argentines."

"He is always hunting, ready for the kill, brilliant with one-two. His right leg can be like a brush or a knife and he will have no problem adapting to the European game."

Borghi, 21, who admires Brazil's Falcão for the way he makes every move look simple, progressed rapidly to the top after claiming the centre-forward position at Argentinos only a year ago.

The fans love his silky skills, but many were also taken by surprise when he recently told of his strict Mormon beliefs.

Off the field he is a calm, confident young man who talks about his disgust of drugs, drink, smoking and abortion. "To have an abortion is a crime worse than murder," he said.

Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo drafted Borghi into his team late last year, hoping all Argentina's fans that he, Maradona and veteran Ricardo Bochini would mould into a fearsome attacking trio.

But the two tests against Mexico in Los Angeles and Puebla revealed a lack of understanding between them and were also Argentina's worst matches under Bilardo.

Bilardo said that once he has gathered his squad for an extended training period from mid-April he will have a chance to work on the Maradona-Borghi formula.

Bochini, 31, has 30 caps, but has never played in a World Cup. He could help make a Maradona-Borghi partnership work, playing deeper and launching them into

During the qualifying games last June, the team did not function well when Maradona was out of the game. It seemed the less experienced home-based players were in awe of the star.

Juan Barbas of Italy's Lecce showed he was capable of pulling the strings, but Bilardo has not placed his full confidence in the man groomed by former coach Cesar Menotti as successor to Osvaldo Ardiles.

Bochini, who played well in Argentina's tour of Europe in 1984, shocked players and fans alike by making himself unavailable for the qualifying rounds.

Bilardo, however, overlooked Bochini's personal problems and took him back into the fold, at least for the build-up to the Mexico finals.

Barbas, on the other hand, has not been called up for the European tour next month which opens with a match against European champions France in Paris on March 26.

"I want to see Sergio Batista and Ricardo Giusti together," Bilardo said, hinting that they would play with Bochini in midfield, with Maradona, Borghi and Real Madrid striker Jorge Valdano up front.

Giusti is one of Bilardo's favourites, a hard-working player with only a modicum of skill.

The bearded Batista could be another revelation. A team-mate of Borghi's at Argentinos, Batista plays in a classical South American midfield style.

An elegant, tall player, his calm manner will suffer less from the heat and altitude in Mexico. He could do for Argentina what Gerson did for Brazil in the same conditions in 1970.

Frustrated Belgian goalie turns 'spy'

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Bayern Munich's Belgian international Jean-Marie Pfaff has swapped his usual goalkeeping role for that of master spy in the run-up to his team's European Cup quarter-final with Anderlecht Wednesday.

Pfaff, who teams up with many of the Anderlecht players in the Belgian national side, has given Bayern trainer Udo Lattek a thorough run-down of what the West German champions can expect.

But Lattek will dispense with Pfaff's services between the goalposts, dealing a harsh blow to his chances of playing in this summer's World Cup finals in Mexico.

Though Pfaff has fully recovered from a groin operation late last year, the brilliant form of his replacement Raimond Aumann is keeping him out of the team.

The unhappy Pfaff, rated one of the best keepers in the world, desperately wanted to see some action, especially as Belgian national trainer Guy Thys has said he would play in Mexico only if he is first choice at Bayern.

Pfaff is also keen to show he is better than the man he dismisses as "Belgium's Number Two," Anderlecht keeper Jacques Munaron.

Belgian league leaders Anderlecht boast a formidable attack which has scored 67 goals this season. But they are unlikely to strike fear into the heart of a Bayern defence which has conceded only 25 goals in as many games.

Bayern may be only a pale imitation of the great side which won the European Cup three years in a row in the mid-1970s, but are on top form and have picked up 14 points from eight games.

The West Germans' strength is in midfield where Dane Soren Lerby and Lothar Matthaus pull

the strings. However, they have still to find a consistent goalscorer up front.

Lattek is likely to turn to the tall but ponderous veteran Dieter Hoernes to use his heading ability to break down the Belgian defence.

Anderlecht, UEFA Cup winners in 1983 and finalists in 1984, are an exciting attacking side but their defence, which relies heavily on the offside trap, is suspect under pressure.

The back four came apart in the third round of the UEFA Cup last season when they threw away a three-goal first-leg lead to lose 6-1 to Real Madrid.

But trainer Arie Haan has a team which boasts players of the quality of midfield prodigy Enzo Scifo and veteran Danish sweeper Morten Olsen. Bayern will not be taking them lightly.

Gothenburg in for rude awakening

ABERDEEN, Scotland (R) — Gothenburg expect a rude awakening from their winter's hibernation when they face Aberdeen in the European Cup Wednesday.

Apart from a friendly tournament in Spain in January, the Swedes have not played competitive soccer for three months. It is hardly the best preparation for their quarter-final first leg

showdown with the Scots at Pittodrie, and manager Gunde Bengtsson knows it.

"It is a serious problem for us not to have played competitive football since last November," he said.

"I would like to think we could manage a goalless draw — but I don't really believe that is possible."

The Arctic conditions which

make a lengthy break in the Swedish soccer programme a necessity also threaten Wednesday's clash.

The pitch is unplayable, but Aberdeen secretary Ian Taggart said: "The weather forecast for the area is good and we are optimistic the tie will go ahead."

If Pittodrie remains ice-bound, Aberdeen have the option to postpone the tie 24 hours to allow the forecasted thaw to take effect.

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(Colour)

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Britain's first colour daily takes to streets

LONDON (R) — Britain's first colour national daily went on sale Tuesday, highlighting a new technology shake-up in the British newspaper industry and heralding a circulation war.

The paper, called Today, is the brainchild of provincial businessman Eddy Shah. It is the first British national daily edited and composed entirely by electronic means.

The paper is the country's first new national daily since the 1978 launch of the Daily Star, whose readers it hopes to win.

First copies of the 44-page tabloid rolled off the presses in west London, Birmingham and Manchester an hour and a half late because of a technical hitch.

Mr. Shah, a descendant of the first Aga Khan, later announced a full print run of 1.4 million copies although there were some reports of distribution problems.

"A newspaper takes time to evolve. It will take a few weeks before I can make a judgment on it," Mr. Shah told reporters. He said they had had trouble calling one page up on the computer.

"Today," which costs 18 pence (about 25 cents), has pledged to be politically independent.

Commentators gave it an indifferent welcome.

"They have had so much trouble with the technology that I think they haven't had time to think about projection," Mr. Charles Wintour, editor of the newspaper industry's journal, The U.K. Press Gazette, said.

Press analyst Tom Baistow described its picture quality and news coverage as "pallid."

But Mr. Wintour said it would be wrong to dismiss a paper on its first impression.

All British newspapers were until recently printed using costly typesetting and hot-metal techniques dating back to the 19th century.

The launch has sent shockwaves through Britain's popular newspapers, some of which spent huge amounts of money to produce costly colour pages Tuesday in an attempt to beat off the new challenge.

But unlike Today, other tabloids had to prepare the colour pages in advance, as the old-fashioned printing techniques they employ make it impossible to produce them overnight.

Spain set to win clash over EC steel quotas

BRUSSELS (R) — Spanish Industry Minister Joan Majo appeared to have won a double victory Monday in a fight to ensure that his country's steel industry has a viable future inside the European Community (EC).

Mr. Majo won the grudging consent of industry ministers for an increase in Spain's steel export quota to the rest of the Community, a spokesman for the EC executive commission said.

And commission sources said an appeal he made Monday for curbs on a flood of exports from the rest of the Community to Spain had won the backing of Industry Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes.

The spokesman said a meeting

of industry ministers agreed to increase Spain's 1986 export quota to 830,000 tonnes from the 827,500 tonnes stipulated in the treaty under which it joined the EC from January along with Portugal.

The Portuguese quota was at the same time raised to 90,000 tonnes from 80,000.

The sources said Mr. Narjes will recommend to his fellow commissioners on Wednesday that quotas be set for Spain's steel imports from other member states this year.

In the first two months of the year, the Spanish market had to absorb more than 2½ times the level of EC imports of a year previously, when they ran at around 90,000 a month.

U.S. leading indicators foreshadow slow activities

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. index of leading indicators, which frequently foreshadows activity in the national economy, fell by 0.6 per cent in January after rising by 1.5 per cent in December, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

It was the largest drop in the index since April 1985, when it declined by 0.7 per cent, the department said.

Fewer contracts and orders for plant and equipment were the main reason for the January drop in the index, the Commerce Department said.

The index includes 11 indicators, five of which declined from December levels.

In addition to the decline in plant and equipment orders, there also were drops in credit outstanding, new business formation, money supply and the average work week.

By contrast, the five indicators that gained from December levels

were factory orders for consumer goods, weekly unemployment benefit claims, building permits, stock prices and raw materials prices.

The Commerce Department revised the December index figure upward to 1.5 per cent from 0.9 per cent after reviewing inventory figures. That made the December gain the largest since June 1983 and equal to the rise in October 1983.

The drop in the index of leading indicators comes a day after the Commerce Department reported a decline in nonresidential and public works construction that caused new construction contracts to plunge by 14 per cent in January from December levels.

Economists predicted the decline in construction will continue throughout 1986 because business capital spending is being trimmed back while federal budget slashing is adversely affecting non-residential building.

EC, GCC renew talks on petrochemicals dispute

KUWAIT (R) — West European and Gulf states renew efforts Wednesday to reach an economy and trade accord, deadlocked by a row over Gulf petrochemical exports.

European Community (EC) Commissioner Claude Cheysson is expected here for talks with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) officials to overcome obstacles to an economic agreement, centring on the petrochemicals issue.

Saudi Arabia and its GCC allies — Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — want free access to Europe's saturated petrochemical market.

But European petrochemical producers fear a rise in imports from big new Arab plants could suffocate their own industry, which already suffers from surplus capacity.

Facing billions of dollars in lost revenue because of the oil price crash, Gulf governments are becoming increasingly angry over EC tariffs on products such as methanol and polyethylenes.

Gulf-based diplomats say the

GCC has sought unsuccessfully to resolve the issue for nearly a decade, since the go-ahead was given for new petrochemical plants in the 1970s oil boom.

"It appears a solution is still not in sight," said one.

The GCC is seeking special treatment similar to that given by the EC to poorer developing countries, and has accused the Community of protectionist measures aimed at smothering its infant industry.

The EC argues that Gulf petrochemical exports are bound by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), under which it is unable to change duties at will.

There are no limits on volumes of petrochemical exports to the EC, but duties are levied after duty-free quotas have been surpassed.

A solution to the petrochemical row is vital to any breakthrough in efforts to map out an economic cooperation accord between the two regional markets, which already enjoy a flourishing two-way trade.

Kremlin to pass more economic powers to provinces next year

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership will pass vital economic planning powers to the provinces next year in a bid to revitalise production but its new reform programme will not allow ailing industries to collapse, officials said Tuesday.

Outlining details of changes announced by Kremlin leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, senior economic planners told a news conference that new regulations decentralising some aspects of economic control would come into effect next year.

Mr. Leonid Vid, deputy chief of the state planning agency, Gosplan, said the Kremlin had now accepted that the traditional form of running the economy, with Moscow giving orders down to the last detail, could no longer work.

"Factories are producing goods for the population that nobody wants... but the fact is that they in Moscow don't know what the people in, say, the Ukraine, need in terms of foodstuffs and consumer goods," he said.

As a result, control over setting many of the targets for local production, primarily in the consumer sector, would be passed on to planning authorities on the spot, he said.

Mr. Vid, a recent newcomer to the planning authority, appeared to typify the new kind of high-power manager Mr. Gorbachev has been promoting to key economic posts.

Mr. Vid confidently rattled off facts, figures and criticism of past incompetence to reporters and snapped at interpreters that they should work harder when they complained they could not keep up.

He said Mr. Gorbachev's economic reforms would mean changes to the Soviet Union's rigid price structure so that costs came closer to reflecting demand and explained that a flexible credit system would help factories to invest in new machinery.

But he made clear the new Kremlin strategy to pin factory and farm incomes more closely to profits would not go so far as allowing inefficient and outdated enterprises to go under.

Funds would be made available from the state to upgrade equipment and enterprises that now lost money would be given enough support to ensure they turned to profitability.

The news conference offered the first detailed briefing on the leadership's economic plans after both Mr. Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said major changes were in store but gave only vague outlines of what was planned.

Deputy Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov said the new reform package, which also grants farms new powers to sell excess produce on private markets, would come into force next January.

On water projects, Mr. Vid revealed that the Kremlin has shelved a long-standing and ambitious scheme to divert waters from northward flowing rivers to irrigate the dry south.

"At present, we can mapage without the switching of water from the northern rivers," Mr. Vid said.

The northern rivers scheme, a cherished project of the late leader Leonid Brezhnev, had become the target of an unusually strong attack in the state press since it was included in draft outlines for the economy last October.

Mr. Vid said a halt to the loss of water in the Caspian Sea and new techniques for tracing seepage from irrigation systems, meant water requirements could be met locally.

His comment confirmed hints from Mr. Ryzhkov at the Communist Party congress Monday that the politically symbolic project had been removed from the final version of the economic blueprint, to be released on Thursday.

The plan, which centred on the ancient north Russian city of Volga, and an even more grandiose scheme for switching water from Siberian rivers, have long been under attack as a threat to the environment.

Both schemes were first envisaged by Russian scientists in the 19th century.

About 85 per cent of the country's rivers flow to the Arctic Sea and only 15 per cent to the dry agricultural areas of the south.

Among prominent critics were a group of writers who said the project to divert water from the Dvina and Onega rivers into the southwards flowing Volga threatened to destroy countless monuments from Russia's cultural heritage.

One of the most influential economists, Professor Abel Aganbeyan, said in Pravda last month that the scheme was a huge waste of money that would be better spent on local irrigation projects.

The addition of Professor Aganbeyan's voice to the controversy implied to Western diplomats that the leadership of Mr. Gorbachev favoured its removal from the plan.

The scheme runs counter to the efforts of the Gorbachev administration to "intensify" the economy using existing resources better.

However both the Siberian and northern projects received implied backing from two top officials from the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in speeches to the congress last week. Both areas suffer severe water shortage.

Third World states debate debt crisis

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A group of 24 developing countries began four days of meetings on the world debt crisis, hoping to unify their position before a meeting with lenders next month.

Monday's meeting was the first gathering of the organisation, dubbed the Group of 24, since the October annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Seoul, South Korea.

At that meeting, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker unveiled a proposal to allocate new credits to the world's most badly indebted countries.

Spokesman Felix Camarasa said the purpose of the Group of 24 was to unify the developing countries in anticipation of April meetings of IMF committees.

Mr. Baker proposed that commercial banks increase lending to debtor countries by \$20 billion over the next three years and that international development banks boost their lending by \$9 billion in that period.

Several debtor countries have called the plan insufficient, including a study prepared by the Group of 24's staff for presentation at the meeting.

Debt is a crucial problem in Latin America, where payments on the foreign debt have outpaced the receipt of capital by \$30 billion annually in the last three years.

Belgian diamond traders flee, bourse strikes off company

BRUSSELS (R) — Two directors of a Belgian firm at the heart of a tax fraud probe into the Antwerp diamond trade have fled the country, their lawyer said Monday.

Mr. Paul Speyer, acting for stock brokers Roger Kirsch and Company, told Reuters the men jumped bail of 7.5 million Belgian francs (\$150,000) late last week.

Their flight came only days after they were informed that the authorities planned to fine the company 2.5 billion francs (\$50 million) for tax evasion, he added.

Mr. Speyer said the men, Mr. Francois Leiser and Mr. Hilaire Beelen, had been under investigation for alleged laundering of undeclared diamond profits for their clients.

The probe has rocked the Antwerp polished-diamond centre, the world's largest, and brought threats by dealers to leave Belgium unless the investigation was halted.

On Friday, the Brussels bourse authority formally announced it had struck off Kirsch, alleging fraud and a serious breach of commercial practice by its directors.

Mr. Speyer said his clients had been persecuted and "chased out of the country" by the tax authorities. "I don't know where they get the figures from," he said.

He maintained the investigators were intent on forcing the com-

pany into bankruptcy with the bill for back tax, in order to bring the alleged criminal malpractices to light during scrutiny of the company's business dealings.

Mr. Leiser told Reuters last month that his firm had kept secret coded parallel accounts for "black" undeclared transactions by some 800 customers, totalling possibly \$1 billion.

Brussels' public prosecutor said Monday he had sent dossiers relating to some of these clients to his Antwerp counterpart for further investigation.

Despite efforts by Antwerp's Diamond High Council to disassociate the trade from Kirsch's activities, diamond dealers say the

move is certain to renew alarm. Diamond merchants said Brussels had known for years that much of the trade was undeclared, arguing this was the only way Antwerp could compete with other world centres.

The diamond trade's annual turnover of 355 billion francs (\$71 billion) accounts for six per cent of Belgium's gross national product.

Diamond traders say many of them could move to more discreet centres such as Tel Aviv or Bombay if what they see as heavy-handed interference by the Brussels authorities continues.

Indian food surplus rises

NEW DELHI (AP) — India lacks facilities to store a rising food grain surplus that includes 23.7 million tonnes of rice and wheat, parliament was told Tuesday.

Some of the surplus grains are lying in open fields under plastic covers, Mr. Ajit Panja, minister of state for food and civil supplies told the upper house.

Mr. Panja said the government's Food Corporation of India has facilities to store 10.2 million tonnes less than half the surplus.

He also said grain production in the fiscal year ending March 31 is expected to be higher than the previous year's output of 146.2 million tonnes.

Despite the vast food surpluses, nearly 37 per cent of India's 750 million people reportedly are unable to meet minimum calorie requirements because they are too poor to buy grain.

Mr. Panja said the government recently has undertaken steps to improve the public distribution system.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WED., MARCH 5, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: An opportunity is presented to you during the day to put into motion your practical talents, so make a point to organize your time and efforts for maximum results.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can easily arrange a meeting with a bigwig who can give you support for some pet project you have in mind.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listen to the suggestions of a good pal which can be most helpful in gaining your finest ambitions, then follow them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you take your loved one along in the business world, you can accomplish a great deal through teamwork today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Understand what it is your partners expect of you and try to please them more now. Show you are a hard worker.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your daily routine can be made to work more profitably for you now if you add a new twist to them.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can be with associates you enjoy the most and also have pleasant recreation together. A civic affair is beneficial.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be with kin and make the improvements that are needed in your home. Invite friends in whom you've been neglecting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Early make appointments to meet with charming persons you like for pleasure mutually enjoyable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to cement better relations with those at home with whom you have mutual interests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) State your finest personal aims to those who can assist you in gaining them. Try not to spend too much money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stop dreaming so much and get into practical affairs that can bring you profits you need. Show good common sense.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan some entertainment and invite your good friends and show how much they mean to you. Be courteous and charming.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have many an opportunity to get ahead from earliest years, but teach to seize them with alacrity and give as fine an education as you can in order to make the most of such chances. The natural tendency is to lead.

Crosswords not received

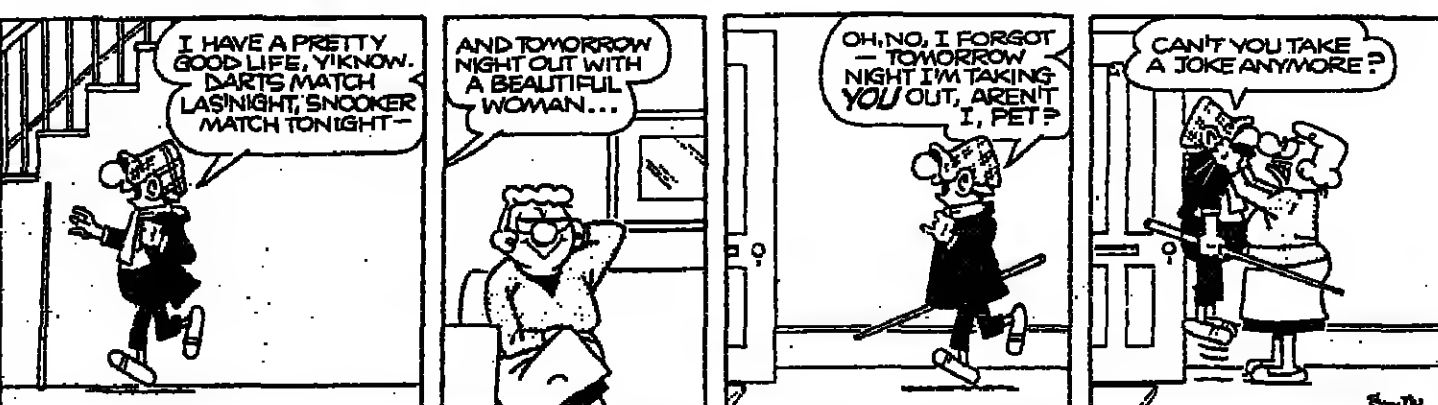
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



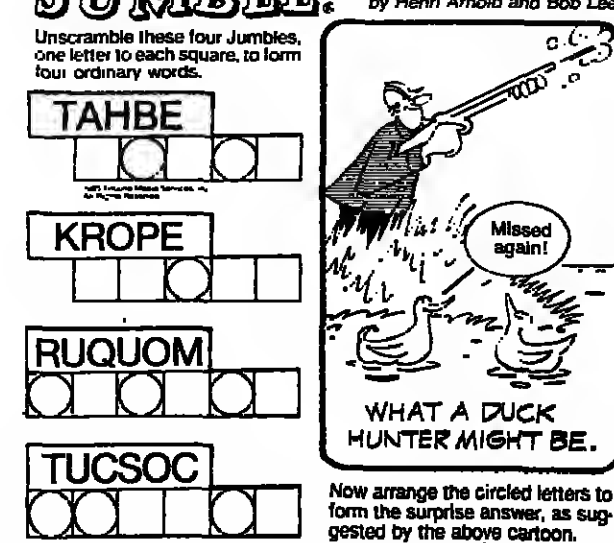
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Yesterday's Jumble: TONIC BOGUS TROPHY SMUDGE
Answer: What most vacationers seem to be these days — "MO-TOUR-ISTS"

Marcos loyalists surrender arsenal to new government

MANILA (R) — Security forces said Tuesday they had seized arsenals from friends and relatives of ousted leader Ferdinand Marcos but denied that forces loyal to him were regrouping to strike against the government of new President Corason Aquino.

Police said the seized weapons and others which were surrendered voluntarily included automatic rifles, Israeli-made submachine-guns and boxes of grenades.

Some raids on houses were carried out by criminal gangs or soldiers operating without authority, police added. They warned troops not to mount unauthorised searches.

Weapons have been seized from the houses of Marcos's son Ferdinand, millionaire coconut and sugar baron Eduardo Cojuangco, and Commodore Alfredo Romualdez, a brother of the former president's wife Imelda.

Ten guns were taken from Armando Gustilo, who stepped down as governor of Negros Del Norte province Monday night.

The younger Marcos fled with his father and family last week moments before a crowd swarmed into the presidential palace after a four-day military revolt backed by thousands of civilians.

Police said they found one automatic rifle, one carbine, 16 parachute flares and boxes of ammunition at his house in suburban Manila.

At the house of Cojuangco, a close Marcos ally and a cousin of Mrs. Aquino, they found 14 crates of small arms.

Mrs. Aquino, who has said she believes most of the guerrillas were alienated by the Marcos regime, told the newspaper the rebels had contacted her through intermediaries to ask about surrender terms.

"I've been getting a lot of people coming to talk," she said. "They've been there for so long. But they're most concerned about starting a new life and what can the government possibly give them?"

Mrs. Aquino said her "commission on reconciliation" would offer insurgents safe passage to come forward "so that we can find out just what they are asking for and in return what they are offering to the government."

Meanwhile Justices of the Philippines' second-highest court handed their resignations Tuesday to President Aquino, who has asked all appointees of Marcos to step down.

Angola's UNITA rebels say that more than 150 foreign workers they say they captured in a diamond-mining town will be released without conditions once they have been marched to the safety of rebel-held areas.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said in a statement issued in Lisbon Monday night its forces seized Andrada in north-east Lunda province on March 1, capturing more than 150 foreigners including Portuguese, Filipinos, Romanians, Britons and a West German.

There was no immediate confirmation of the capture of Andrada from the Angolan government in Luanda.

A UNITA spokesman in Lisbon told Reuters Tuesday that the captives, whom he said were all reported to be well, had already been moved from Andrada and would be marched to UNITA headquarters at Jamba in south-east Angola where they would be freed.

"There will be no conditions for the release," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the release would be coordinated with the International Red Cross who would be asked to provide transport for the captives out of Angola.

UNITA, which has fought the Marxist government since the country's independence from Portugal in 1975, has in the past captured and later freed groups of foreign workers in Angola.

Diamonds, along with oil, are a major source of income for Angola whose economy has been hit by the 10-year war against the rebels. UNITA has frequently said it would strike against strategic military and economic targets and has warned foreigners not to work in Angola.

Andrada was one of the last major diamond-mining centres operating securely in Lunda province.

UNITA said 60 Angolan troops were killed in the battle for the town, which the spokesman said the rebels were still occupying. It put its own losses at 19 dead and 30 wounded.

The rebel statement Monday night said the captives included two British engineers named Dayton and Tingay, a West German engineer called Thissen and a Romanian woman named Dilitia Grove. The UNITA spokesman said he hoped to be able to provide more details of nationalities and names in due course.

The rebels captured eighty Filipinos, Portuguese and Britons in an attack on the Kafunfo Mines in Lunda province in February 1984. Twenty-two foreigners, again including Filipinos and Britons, were seized in another attack on Kafunfo in December of the same year.

Employers' organisations said the strike had caused a huge loss of production.

They criticised the police for failing to keep the roads open as promised and the politicians for not controlling the violence, which continued in some areas well into the night.

The police had promised to ensure that those who wanted to be able to go to work.

There were complaints that officers stood aside in many places as protesters threw up barricades of farm machinery, trees and telegraph poles.

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the moderate Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), accused the police of having one code of conduct for Protestants and another for Catholics.

WELLINGTON (R) — France has returned a protest yacht it arrested and confiscated during anti-nuclear demonstrations in the South Pacific last year, the Greenpeace environmental group said Tuesday.

Greenpeace coordinator Elaine Shaw told Reuters that the French had demanded no compensation for the return of the veteran yacht, the Vega.

The environmental group had been asked only to meet freight costs, she added.

The 13 metre Canadian-registered yacht was arrested on Oct. 24 last year as it entered a 12-mile exclusion zone around Mururoa atoll in an attempt to stop an imminent nuclear test.

The arrest ended a month-long protest vigil off France's South Pacific nuclear testing ground by a "peace fleet" of up to five vessels, headed by the group's ocean-going tug Greenpeace.

The yacht's four crew were expelled from French Polynesia several days later while the Vega, on its fourth protest voyage to Mururoa, was towed to Tahiti.

The Vega was Tuesday under cover on the deck of a Tahitian-based freighter docked at the small port of Gisborne on the east coast of New Zealand's North Island.

Photographers trying for pictures of the shrouded hull were later barred from the dockside and said crew members on the freighter Bounty III secured covers.

Shaw told Reuters the yacht would be unloaded in Auckland later this week and would return to protest work after it had been checked and refitted.

No protest voyages to Mururoa were currently planned, she said, but Greenpeace would maintain its campaign against France's test programme by publicity voyages around the South Pacific.

"The Rainbow Warrior affair has raised the profile of what we're trying to do. The issues are still there and we want to make sure they're not forgotten," Shaw added.

An aide to Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar said the senator found the proposal interesting and planned to discuss it with Sasser.

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Meanwhile, Nicaragua's interior minister said that anti-Sandinista rebels have been virtually defeated, but more U.S. aid would give them a "moral stimulus" that would lead to more deaths.

"The Contras are virtually defeated in strategic terms," the Interior Minister Tomas Borge said at a news conference Monday.

"However, if the U.S. Congress approves the \$100 million that President (Ronald) Reagan is asking for, it would give them a moral stimulus. It would mean more arms and subsequently more victims and more deaths."

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PEKING (R) — China said Tuesday a national survey had indicated its one billion people are getting an average of 2,485 calories a day in their food, slightly more than the amount needed to keep people healthy. The official New China News Agency said the survey indicated the average calorie intake had risen from 2,060 in 1959 to 2,485 today, adding that nutrition experts believed people could "live well with 2,400 calories." The present Chinese diet contained enough calories, Vitamin C, Carotene and other elements, but insufficient protein, calcium, riboflavin and iron, it added.

NORT, France (AP) — An armed gang robbed the local branch of the Banque de France of up to 29 million francs (\$4.3 million) in cash, police sources said. Regional government officials confirmed the hold-up netted "many millions of francs," but said the total was still being established. The officials at the prefecture (local administrative headquarters) in this town, between Poitiers and La Rochelle in south-western France, said there were believed to have been at least six gangsters. They entered the Banque de France building by overpowering the janitor stepped out of the door. Then they took employees hostage one by one as they arrived for work. Under threats of what officials described as "very impressive weapons," the gang forced employees to open the safe. They escaped in light trucks without being followed, in what the officials described as a very well organised hold-up, carried out discreetly.

Mr. Schultz told a war veterans meeting Monday that anti-government feeling in Nicaragua was higher than it had been in the Philippines before the fall of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua's interior minister said that anti-Sandinista rebels have been virtually defeated, but more U.S. aid would give them a "moral stimulus" that would lead to more deaths.

"The Contras are virtually defeated in strategic terms," the Interior Minister Tomas Borge said at a news conference Monday.

"However, if the U.S. Congress approves the \$100 million that President (Ronald) Reagan is asking for, it would give them a moral stimulus. It would mean more arms and subsequently more victims and more deaths."

Mr. Borge is on an official six-day visit to Brazil. He said he hoped to meet with Foreign Minister Roberto Azeiteiro and has requested an audience with President Jose Sarney.

Mr. Borge also said he would ask Brazil to participate in a border commission proposed by the Contadora Group of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, to help resolve border disputes between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Some of the Nicaraguan rebel groups have bases in Costa Rica and Honduras.

AGHIOS NICOLAOS, Crete (AP) — A Greek Orthodox bishop has warned that "blood will flow" if Baghwan Shree Rajneesh, the Indian guru ousted from the United States last November, remains on this southern Greek island. For the past two weeks, the self-styled "guru of the rich" has been staying at a luxurious cliff-top villa owned by Greek film director Nikos Koukourides.

Police arrested two young men who tried to spray Queen Elizabeth with water Tuesday when she arrived at a Sydney hotel for a state reception. The pair, using water hoses, missed the royal motorcade as it arrived at the hotel. Their timing was out, because the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh had gone, and they were so far away. The wind dispersed the water, a police spokeswoman told Reuters. Police described to give the name of the two men but said they were in their twenties and were being held for questioning. The incident took place as aboriginal protesters demonstrated outside the hotel waving placards opposing the Australian government's decision not to pass legislation granting land rights to them.

However, abuses of human rights continue daily and have increased markedly over the past year, Amnesty said in the letter.

In an accompanying report, Amnesty said there had been over 800 deaths associated with heightened unrest against apartheid between September 1984 and November 1985 and several thousand people were detained without trial for political reasons.

The group repeated its oft-stated concern about reports of widespread and systematic torture of political detainees, at least 12 of whom were reported to have died in police custody between January 1981 and November 1985.

Amnesty said over 100 people were hanged in South Africa every year. Most of the executions were for murder, but the death penalty can be used for other serious crimes such as rape, treason and certain political offences.

The group said that of 115 people hanged in Pretoria prison in 1984, all but three were Africans or coloureds (mixed race).

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